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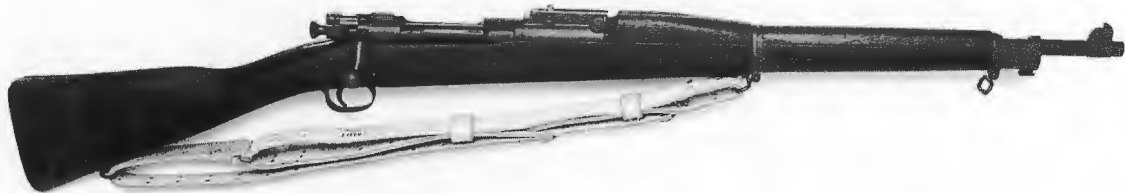
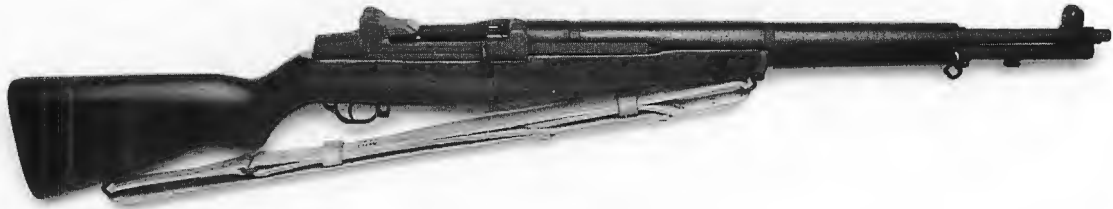
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In Memoriam

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The 19th of April 1993 is a day that will live, if not in infamy, at least as a major defeat for the civil, constitutional and human rights of all Americans. It will also live in inquiry. One can only hope that the inevitable congressional and judicial investigations of this tragedy will ask the right questions and bring out the truth.

An ATF undercover agent inside the compound, well before the raid, informed his superiors that the people inside were aware that the raid was impending; for this reason he urged that the raid be called off. But it wasn't!

It seemingly would have been possible to arrest David Koresh while he was out jogging, or in town, or somewhere else away from his followers. Once Koresh was in custody it would have been simple to go out to the compound with a visibly overwhelming force of uniformed police and marked vehicles, but without precipitate violence, serve the writ, make the search and take whatever further action the law dictated.

Why was this not done? Was there a deliberate intent, quite unrelated to any legitimate law enforcement objective, to provoke a spectacular battle, with the ATF agents playing Rambo to the plaudits of the TV audience? What other explanation is there for the spectacularly botched violence of the action on February 28?

If deliberately provoking a battle and thereby hazarding the lives of the ATF agents and of the women and children in the compound isn't willful and wrongful disregard of almost inevitable consequences, what is? If in fact there were no illegal weapons in the compound and the ATF knew this, there was no legal basis at all for the ATF's going in. The ATF is an arm of the Treasury Department charged with enforcing certain tax laws; it has no general law enforcement authority. The ATF has a lot of questions to answer

to the next of kin of the ATF agents and cult members who were killed in this unnecessary orgy of violence.

There are allegations of bigamy and child-molesting against David Koresh. Of course these are felonies under Texas law, but they are not Federal offenses and hence no business of the ATF. Further, the fact that Koresh was an unattractive character with followers holding rather odd theology, does not mean that they have no civil, legal or constitutional rights. Calling such a group a "cult" should not deprive them of their rights.

April 19, 1993, was the first time since the Spanish Inquisition, at least in the West, that people have been burned alive for their religious beliefs. A good part of the blame for that goes to the FBI, but they were called in to try to salvage a situation that the ATF had already butchered beyond any hope of reasonable resolution.

What comes out is that the ATF has become a loose cannon in the law enforcement world, completely out of control, making its own rules, and to hell with the law and the rights of the citizens. It has become a disgrace to legitimate, responsible, professionally competent, law-upholding law enforcement.

Will there be any changes? Probably not. When the political steam gets hot enough, President Clinton will make it "crystal clear" that ATF Director Higgins and FBI Director Sessions are Republican appointees and dissipate the heat by firing them. And then appoint Sarah Brady (or someone of the same ilk) to the ATF and some other authoritarian elitist to the FBI. And nothing really will change.

Unless ... unless all who are concerned for the civil and legal rights of citizens, from the NRA to the ACLU and beyond, join together and insist on thoroughgoing and significant reform of the ATF. ✕

THE WACO MASSACRE

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE (ISSN 0145-6784/USPS 120-510) is published monthly by SOLDIER OF FORTUNE Magazine Inc., 5 Arapahoe Ave., Boulder, Colorado 80303-1340. Second Class Postage Paid at Boulder, CO. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, Subscription Department, P.O. Box 348, Mt. Morris, IL 61054-0348, or call 1-800-877-5207. and APO-FPO subscription rates for twelve monthly issues: \$28.00. California residents add 7.25% tax. Canada add \$10.00/yr. international postage (includes GST tax registration number: R128476249). All other countries add \$21.00. U.S. FUNDS ONLY. Single Issue Price — U.S., \$3.95; United Kingdom, £2.60; Canada, \$4.75. PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

CONTRIBUTORS: Manuscripts, photographs or drawings are submitted at the contributor's own risk. Material should be mailed to the Editor, SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306, and cannot be returned unless accompanied by sufficient postage. Any material accepted is subject to such revision as is necessary to meet the editorial requirements of SOF. All manuscripts must be typed double-spaced. All photographs should be credited and be accurately identified. Payment will be made in full at the time of publication. Editorial office phone number is 303-449-3750.

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Photo: John Kreiger

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Photo: Peter Douglas



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Photo: Robert K. Brown

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COVER

ATF agent armed with M16 could only watch as Branch Davidian compound burns, killing an estimated 86 people. Law enforcement agencies forced the issue after a 51-day standoff by saturating the area with tear gas. What or who started fire is unclear as we go to press. Note that photo is a composite. Fire photo: SOF staff. Agent photo: Wide World/Widman

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BULLETIN BOARD



Private First Class Buck Rogers: Ranger from the 4th Ranger Training Battalion demonstrates SIPE ATD (Soldier Integrated Protective Ensemble/Advanced Technology Demonstration). Object of SIPE program is to "develop, fabricate and demonstrate a modular, head-to-toe, integrated fighting system which will afford improved combat effectiveness while providing the individual soldier balanced protection against multiple battlefield hazards." Cute gear — but don't forget that if it works, it works because there's a Ranger inside. Photo: U.S. Army Natick Research, Development & Engineering Center

HALL OF FAME FOR AL MAR

The late Al Mar, knife designer extraordinaire and friend of *SOF* almost since our inception, has been nominated for induction into the *Blade Magazine* Hall of Fame. All of us familiar with the work and life of this creative and genuinely decent human being think he would be an entirely worthy inductee. If you agree, send a postcard to: Al Mar Induction Vote, *Blade Magazine* Hall of Fame, 2835 Hickory Valley Road, Chattanooga, TN 37421. On the back of the card, write a brief note stating you would like to see Al Mar inducted into the *Blade* Hall of Fame; include your name, address and signature. Rare men such as Al Mar are best memorialized in the hearts of those fortunate enough to have known them — but tangible memorials such

as this provide a medium for our sons to learn about, and from, the good men who have gone before.

BARNES DROPS SUIT

Scott Barnes, *Soldier Of Fortune's* favorite dress-shop owner and subject of our May issue's "The Flake Strikes Again," has dropped his suit against Texas industrialist and political reformer Ross Perot. In the action Barnes had claimed he was a victim of what he called Perot's bad faith, conspiracy and fraud.

INTERNATIONAL BODYGUARDS

Directors of the International Bodyguard Association, the *real* one founded in 1957 by Lucien V. Ott, have recently opened their organization to associate membership by persons who have completed a recognized governmental, police or military bodyguard course. Interested and qualified parties may contact the IBA in the United Kingdom; fax: 44-81-668-8745, or by post at P.O. Box 500, South Croydon, Surrey, CR2 6ZD, U.K.

For individuals seeking full membership, there will be two courses held in the United States in 1993; on the West Coast 12-18 July '93 (POC: Box 1772, San Leandro, CA 94577), and in the East 20-26 Sept. '93 (POC: IBA North America, Rt. 3, Box 639, Brighton, TN 38011).

According to IBA's international coordinator James G. Short, a special facility course will be held in Estonia and Latvia 28 June-2 July 1993 for full or associate IBA members. Details available by fax from the U.K. office (above).

COUNT DOWN

John Heidenrich, former analyst with the Defense Intelligence Agency, recently announced that possibly as few as 1,500 Iraqi troops may have been killed in Operation

Desert Storm. Heidenrich calculates an absolute maximum of 6,500 dead and 19,500 wounded — but only if all Iraqi vehicles struck had full crews, which they did not. Heidenrich suggested that once the air campaign started, mass desertions reduced Iraqi strength to only 200,000 to 300,000.

FREE FINAL POW REPORT

Senate Report on POW/MIAs, Document 103-1, is available from the Senate Document Room B-04, Hart Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510.

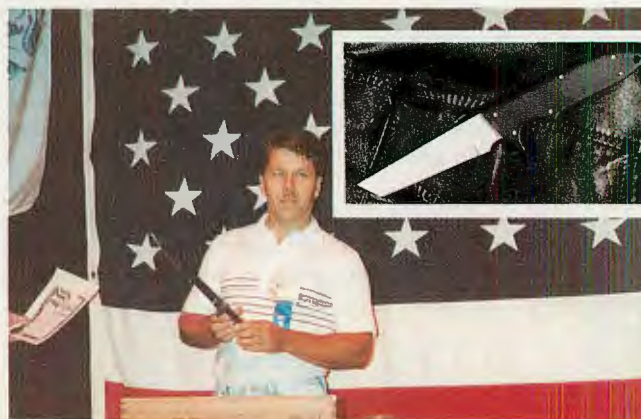
VIETNAMESE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

The National United Front for the Liberation of Vietnam publishes a newsletter @ \$12 for one year, available from P.O. Box 7826, San Jose, CA 95150; phone: 408-226-2261.

WAR TOYS

This month's "We're-Not-Making-This-Up" award goes to the Hawaiian State Legislature bill that would require the notice: WARNING. THINK BEFORE YOU BUY. THIS IS A WAR TOY. PLAYING WITH IT INCREASES ANGER AND VIOLENCE IN CHILDREN. IS THIS WHAT YOU REALLY WANT FOR YOUR CHILD? to be posted where toy weapons or war-themed computer games are sold. Retailers caught without the sign would be fined \$100.

Eldon Coats, of Coats Custom Knives, Box 201, Bonanza, OR 97623, created a one-only cased Khyber knife, to commemorate the victory of the Afghan freedom fighters over the Soviet army and their in-country puppets, and donated it to be sold at last year's *SOF* Convention auction for our Afghan Freedom Fighters Fund. It raised \$700 for the cause. Coats also donated a custom LAPD boot knife (inset) worth \$115. Photos: courtesy Eldon Coats





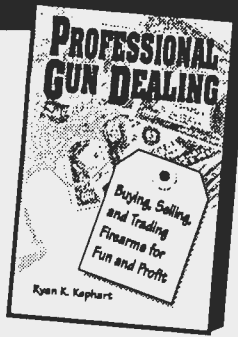
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PROFESSIONAL GUN DEALING

Buying, Selling, and Trading Firearms for Fun and Profit

by Ryan K. Kephart

If you have a passion for firearms, like to barter or dicker and wouldn't mind a lot of extra cash in your pocket, this book is well worth the small investment of time and money. Not your typical reference book with information on specific firearms or pricing, this guide was designed with one purpose in mind—to help you turn a profit by becoming a better trader. In his easy, down-home style, Ryan Kephart shows you the ins and outs of the firearms business that would normally take years to learn and coaches you in the "art of the trade." You'll learn what you need to get started; standard operating procedure, ethics and etiquette; and methods of grading and assessment. For the experienced dealer, there are tips on obtaining financing, hints about marketing and promotion, plus valuable information you may have forgotten or don't use to your advantage. Regardless of your level of involvement in the industry, this valuable resource is chock-full of proven facts that will help you enhance your business and get the most for your money. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, photos, 224 pp. \$20.00



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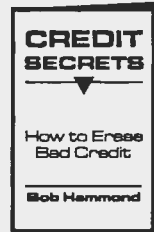
This authorized history of Bo Randall and his blades was compiled through meticulous research that included correspondence, original sketches, personal interviews and rare photos – including his never-before-seen first knife. Designed to become the definitive history for collectors, bladesmiths and historians. 8 1/2 x 11, hardcover, photos, illus., 304 pp. \$50.00



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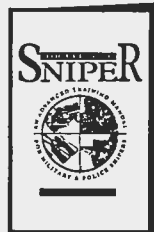


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REUNIONS

1st/8th Cavalry (Vietnam), 30 Jun-4 July 93 @ Indianapolis, IN. POC: Ray E. Poynter (501) 545-3466.

2nd Infantry (Indianhead) Division (WWI, WWII, Korea), 21-24 Jul 93 @ Ft. Worth, TX. POC: Bill Creech (512) 295-5324.

36th Infantry Division Assn. (WWII), 29 Sep-3 Oct 93 @ Ft. Worth, TX. POC: Leonard Wilkerson (903) 489-1644.

5th Air Corps/27th Air Depot Group (WWII), 15-19 Jul 93 @ Amarillo, TX. POC: Cleo E. Russel (806) 874-5056.

78th Troop Carrier Squadron (WWII), 23-26 Sep 93 @ Colorado Springs, CO. POC: Fred Kopatz, Jr. (502) 367-8106.

USS LST 246 (WWII), 24-27 Jun 93 @ Norfolk, VA. POC: Fred Friess (215) 632-0907.

USS Allen M. Sumner (WWII, Korea, Cuban crisis), 24-27 Jun 93 @ Charleston, SC. POC: (716) 692-2697.

USS Maddox, 12-15 Aug 93 @ St. Louis, MO. POC: Vic and Naomi Saeger (715) 424-1454.

USS Lyman K. Swenson (all eras), 2-5 Sep 93 @ Seattle, WA. POC: Glen Ingram (817) 283-8294.

USS Lardner, 9-13 Sep 93 @ Nashville, TN. POC: Jim Meadows (505) 298-9236.

USS McGowan (1943-1960), Oct 93 @ Washington, DC. POC: Don Rogers (617) 595-1137.

VPB-18 (Patrol Bombing Squadron), 13-17 Oct 93 @ Las Vegas, NV. POC: John J. McGann (800) 982-7642.

USS Ringness (WWII), 15-17 Oct 93 @ Orlando, FL. POC: Roy L. McClendon, Jr. (904) 562-5417.

USS Kearny (1940-46), 21-23 Oct 93 @ Charlotte, NC. POC: James Adams (803) 283-8645.

SLICK WILLIE WATCH



SPECIAL PROTECTION

We have just learned from *Gunsite Gossip* that the Secret Service Uniformed Division has increased security on Hillary: They are afraid that if something happens to her, Bill will become president.

WILLIE QUIZ

Q: What's the difference between Jane Fonda and Bill Clinton? A: Jane Fonda went to Vietnam.

Q: How long does it take Al Gore to watch "60 Minutes"? A: Three hours.

Q: What's the new Clinton Cocktail? A: America on the rocks.

DO I UNDERSTAND THIS?

Let me see if I understand this: We selected a dope-smoking, draft-dodging, womanizing governor of a low-income, poorly educated, sparsely populated, non-industrialized state to lead the most powerful nation on the planet. *Is that what we just did?*

MAN OF ACTION

George Bush, Bill Clinton and Ross Perot were riding together on a plane. On an impulse, Bush got up, opened the door and threw a handful of dollars out, saying "There, that'll make a few people happy." Seeing this, Clinton put down his Big Mac, strode to the open door and threw out a roll of twenties. "That'll make even *more* people happy," he said. Now Perot stood up, grabbed Clinton by the collar and threw him from the plane. "Now," Ross said, "that'll make *everybody* happy."

REVISED DoD SECURITY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Did you lie, mislead and use political influence in order to get into

ROTC so that you could avoid being drafted during the Vietnam War?

2. If you answered "YES" to question No. 1, did you then renege on your commitment to the ROTC program because you preferred to go to Yale Law School rather than keep your word?

3. Did you deny ever having received a draft notice while a Rhodes scholar in Great Britain, when you actually received two?

4. Did you give aid and comfort to the enemies of your country in time of war by organizing and leading demonstrations against your country while a student on foreign soil?

5. Were you, as a Rhodes scholar, the guest of the Soviet government at the finest hotel in Moscow at a time when your hosts were supplying the weapons and training that were killing thousands of your countrymen in Vietnam, with whom you refused to serve?

6. Did you categorize, in writing, military service to your country as being "loathsome"?

7. Did you act as an apologist for the North Vietnamese communist government by distributing literature describing the communists as the legitimate government of all Vietnam, while your country was at war with this regime?

8. Did you defraud the people of Arkansas by circumventing the merit civil service system by installing your mistress in a state job that had already been legitimately earned by another state employee?

9. Do you continue to this date to deny that you dodged the draft, when in fact you conducted a persistent and concerted campaign with the assistance of numerous powerful politicians, to avoid military service?

If you answered "YES" to all these questions, you are now the commander in chief of the United States armed forces. Good luck. ☒



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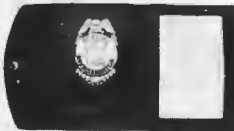
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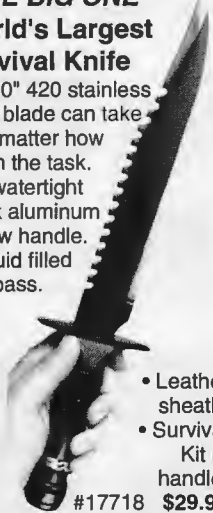
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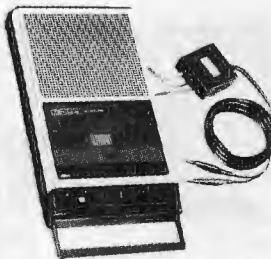
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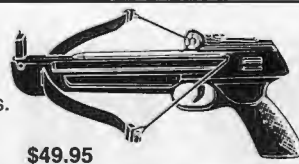
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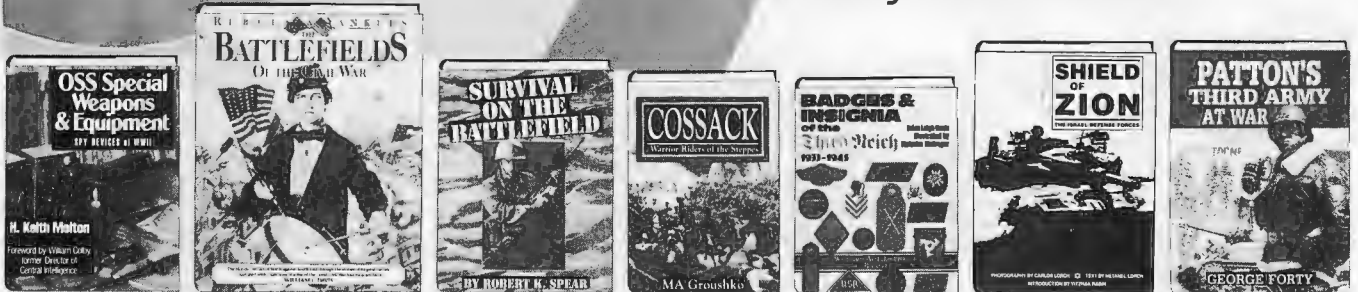
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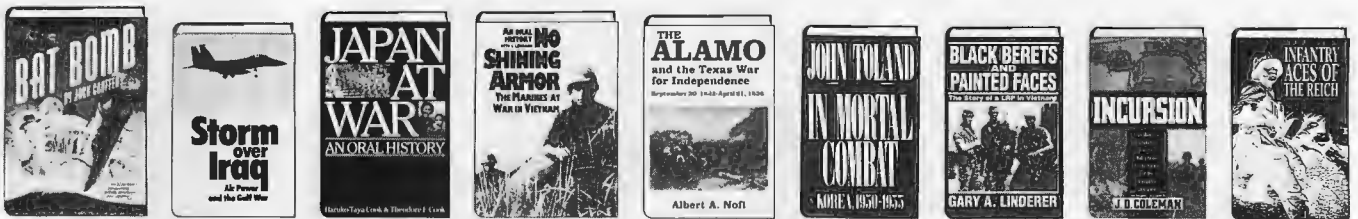
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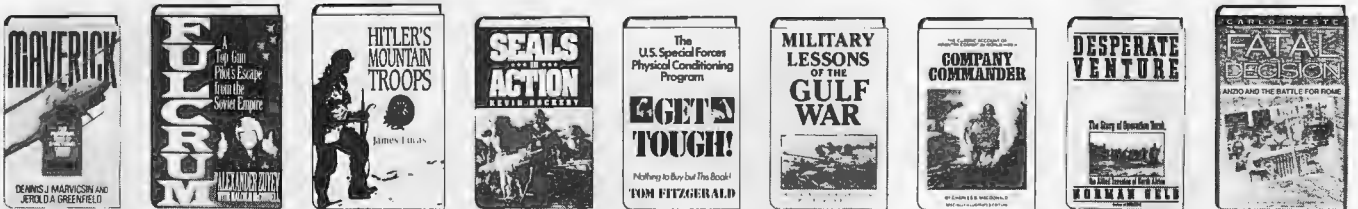
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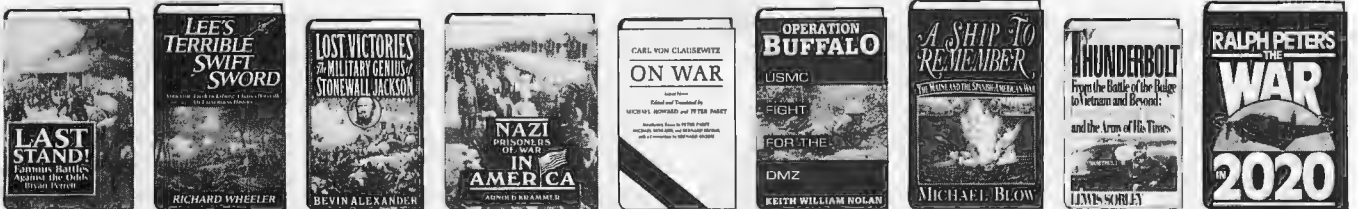
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SOF 7/93

I WAS THERE

Text & Photos by Jack N. Holt



Gun tractor pulls 8-inch howitzer from Battery A of 17th Field Artillery through the gauntlet near Kunu-ri. Removing such ordnance from encircling Chinese was critical, as U.S. field pieces provided tremendous firepower and were highly valued; only 12 such guns were in North or South Korea in 1950.

“Chosin Reservoir” and “Hamhung” are familiar names — thanks to extensive news coverage of the American withdrawal from North Korea in late 1950 by the 3rd and 7th Army divisions and the Marine Corps.

But “Kunu-ri” — who ever heard of it? Except, that is, the men who survived an attempted massacre there near the Manchurian border on 30 November 1950.

Forty-two years ago is a long time, almost too long to remember, but the details of this bitterly cold day are indelibly traced on my mind and soul; they will remain with me to the grave.

I was assigned to the 17th Field Artillery Battalion. We were a “bastard” outfit, belonging to the 8th Army but attached to any division requiring the massive firepower of our M115 8-inch howitzers. Known as “The Persuaders,” we had broken out of the Pusan perimeter with the 24th Division back in September, continuing with one division or another until we were almost to China.

It was then that the Chinese army slipped through the rugged North Korean mountains and cut us off from behind. Simultaneously, they massed a frontal offensive sending the Turkish and South Korean troops on our flanks into flight — leaving us in danger of being surrounded and annihilated.

At the time, the 17th Field was assigned to the 2nd Division to help fight a rear guard action and hold Kunu-ri until the 25th Division could withdraw across the Chongchon River. The sounds of a tremendous firefight erupted just after dark on 29 November and continued through the night. Tracers and flares lit the sky along a

ridge in front of our perimeter while our 8-inch guns, entrenched across a narrow roadway, pumped shell after shell into the enemy positions.

Dawn broke cold and clear on 30 November. We finally got the order to close station and move out. We hurriedly disassembled our .50-caliber machine gun and trekked down the hill from our post to the road. There we found cannoneers, supply clerks, officers and anyone available feverishly working to free the giant howitzers from their positions and move south.

One battery was still firing, somebody said at 1,000 yards, direct. You could see holes in the mass of humanity scrambling down the distant ridge. The Chinese looked like so many ants. When one of our 200-pound projectiles hit, a patch would appear, and suddenly the ants in that patch would stop moving.

Elements of the 2nd Division just ahead of our positions were firing machine guns and small arms into the Chinese infantry trying to overrun us. The day before we had heard a rumor of being cut off from behind, but nobody in our higher echelon had confirmed or denied it.

That morning I was assigned to ride shotgun for a private named Pope driving a 2½-ton ammo truck. I don’t remember Pope’s first name; I hadn’t known him long and this would prove to be the last time I would ever see him. The truck was equipped with a .50-caliber machine gun on a ring mount, which gave it 360 degrees of traverse.

We hit the road and found that everybody was going south. There were American and South Korean troops, Turks and a sea of refugees skirting the area around the narrow roadway. I don’t doubt that there were many North Korean and Chinese soldiers hidden among the refugees streaming south. We often had to halt the convoy and clear the road ahead in order to get the big guns through.

They say ignorance is bliss. I suppose this being so, Pope and I were about as blissful as you could be that day. We sure didn’t have any idea of the hell that lay in store just a short way down the road from Kunu-ri.

Some 6,000 troops, or two brigades of Chinese, had secured the high ground around the road south. They held a 13-mile stretch of a narrow

Massacre at Kunu-ri

mountain pass and had ravaged elements of the 2nd Division sent beforehand to clear a way for the rest of us to follow.

Somebody had called for an air strike. We paused behind a hill and waited for it before proceeding into enemy-held territory. I took the time to rig up a tin can, dirt and gas stove to heat some corned beef hash.

While we were waiting to move forward, four P-51s came over. The Mustangs strafed and dropped napalm on the small mountain slope to our right. About the same time the Scots showed up, marching straight up a hill to our left, firing all the way. A bagpiper was right in the thick of it, blowing for all he was worth.

God, I remember thinking, the things some people do to make a living.

We moved out about 1400. As we entered the first roadblock, the dead were everywhere. They lay in ditches and on the road. Our vehicles would run over bodies sprawled across the narrow road, and it felt like hitting bags of sand as we bumped across them. Equipment and disabled vehicles littered the landscape. At one spot that looked like some kind of a supply dump I picked up a new winter overcoat. I sure was glad to find it, as we were still suffering from lack of winter equipment.

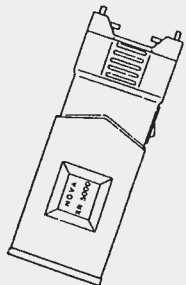
The Chinese would begin by lobbing mortars in. They had one mortar almost like an artillery round, called the 120. I had seen one abandoned earlier in the war. It was huge compared with our mortars.

When a mortar disabled a convoy vehicle, all vehicles following would have to stop until it was pushed out of the way. There was little room to pass on

Author prepares “last meal” of C-rats before venturing into Kunu-ri pass. GIs devised mini-cookstoves out of punctured tin cans by packing them with dirt, soaking dirt with fuel, then lighting cans.



STUN GUNS



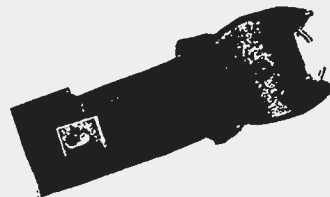
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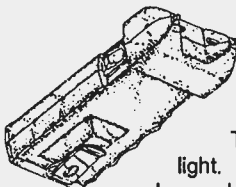
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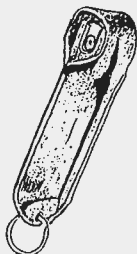


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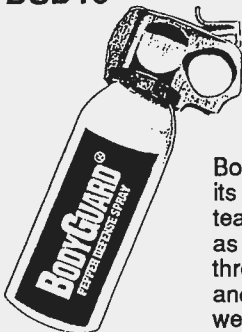
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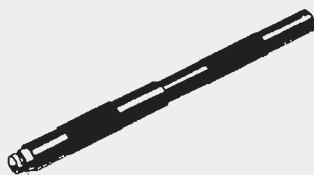
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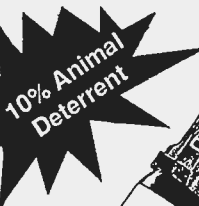
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the narrow road. Once the communists had the convoy stopped, they would rake us with small-arms fire.

Our artillerymen and infantry fought together, hitting the ditches and firing untold rounds into surrounding hillsides. I tried to operate the .50 mounted on our truck, but it was jammed tight. Something had hit it. Pope pulled me down and attempted to un-jam the .50 while I covered him with an M3 grease gun. I shot up all the rounds left in my magazine and threw the damned thing down.

A Chinese bullet hit our truck's ring mount, sounding like an explosion in my ear. Pope screamed and moved to exit the truck. He was bleeding through his fatigue pants. I tackled him and tried to hold him down, screaming for the medics. They came and took Pope away. That was the last time I saw him.

It was stop-and-go as the afternoon and evening dragged on. We abandoned Pope's truck and I was without a weapon. I rummaged through a supply truck looking for a rifle. But there was nothing there but a bazooka and two wooden crates of rockets.

I took the bazooka and one rocket. We moved on, then stopped again. A Chinese machine gun had pinned down the front-runners of the column. I loaded the bazooka, wired the rocket and moved to get a sight on tracers coming out of the bushes ahead. Since the

light was poor, I couldn't see the elevation rings very well.

There were men in a ditch behind me. I had to move so the bazooka's backblast wouldn't injure them. I moved down the road a few more yards, stood up and fired. The machine gun stopped momentarily. Then one of our half-tracks managed to squeeze by the stranded column and fire its twin 40mm guns into the hill. After this the machine gun was silent — we moved on again.

Darkness overtook us. Chinese flares lit the sky with a reddish cast. Our flares threw off a whiter or bluish light. We passed though a burning village. Our column could not use any light, so we ran though the narrow gauntlet in total darkness.

The blazing village furnished momentary light, while dead bodies were still bumping like sandbags under our moving vehicles. There was the constant sound of a firefight from the rear of the column. I figured someone behind us was really taking a shellacking.

The 17th Field Artillery Battalion was lucky — at least luckier than most. We lost 18 vehicles, one 8-inch howitzer and had eight casualties. The communists didn't attack us directly after dark. I guess they mistook the sound of our tracks for tanks. They seemed to concentrate on the smaller units.

I heard later that some 4,500

casualties were suffered in our sector; of these, around 3,000 occurred in the pass at Kunu-ri. We finally made it through the pass only to find a key bridge had been blown. The column attempted to bypass the spot by going along a gorge and across a mountain stream separating us from the friendly lines manned by British troops.

The 17th's heavy vehicles and huge guns bogged down in the stream crossing. British tanks showed up on the other side attempting to light our way, but this attracted enemy machine-gun fire, so they didn't help the cause much.

One of the heavy howitzers fell into the gorge, so we put a white phosphorous grenade down the barrel to disable it and prevent the Chinese from using it against us later.

We finally reached the British lines at about 0400 on 1 December. It had taken us all this time to go less than 20 miles. We were tired, dejected, bloody and dirty. We were Scots, Brits, Turks, Koreans, Americans and perhaps some more friendlies I didn't know about.

We didn't speak the same language, but we all had a common bond. We had lived through hell that day. We were changed and, though the world would scarcely mark its passing, our common experience created a bond of brotherhood that could not be severed by language, race or creed. ✕

NIGHT VISION

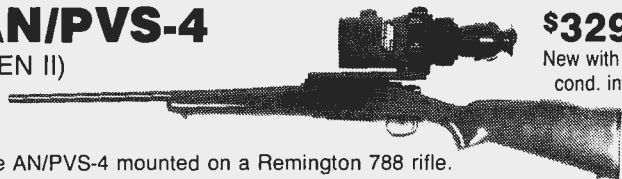
AN/PVS-2B (GEN I)



The AN/PVS-2B mounted on M-16.
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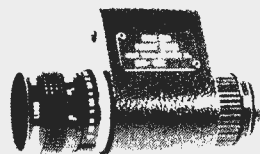
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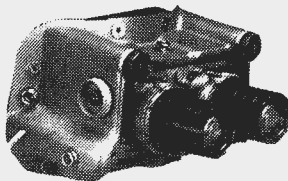
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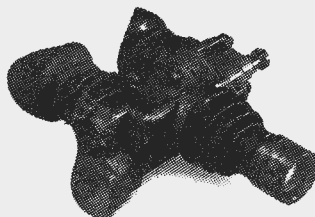
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WORLD SITREP

1

Colombia

National Liberation Army rebels blow up bridge supporting eight oil pipelines over Sagamoso River, some 185 miles north of Bogota. Resulting fire burns two days, consuming 100,000 barrels of crude ...

2

Peru

In public display, Shining Path founder and mastermind Abimael Guzman is moved from temporary island prison to specially constructed underground cell to serve life sentence ...

3

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Ineffective Western efforts at Serbian acceptance of partitioning country into 10 semiautonomous regions prompts calls for end to arms embargo preventing Bosnian Moslems from obtaining weapons. Main roadblocks to ending U.N.-imposed embargo come from Russia, which backs Serbs, also from European nations fearing escalation of violence and wider war ...

6

Russia

Russian air force may fund development of next-generation fighter by selling surplus equipment, suggesting a substantial number of MiG-23-era or even early MiG-29-generation aircraft could be available for export to Third World or ex-Warsaw Pact countries ...

7

Azerbaijan

Spring offensive by Armenian forces attempting to open corridor to Nagorno-Karabakh results in loss of border town of Kelbadzhar. 30 villages and some one-tenth of Azeri territory ...

11

Israel

Indefinite closure of occupied territories following rash of murders of Israelis there by Palestinians is followed by announcement that Palestinians allowed to work in Israel will be reduced in number by roughly 40% ...

12

Egypt

Crackdown on Moslem extremists fails to curb terrorism. President Mubarak dismisses interior minister, Abdel-Halim Moussa; replaced by Hassan El-Alfy, a police general experienced in fighting extremists as former governor of Assyout province in Upper Egypt ...

Government blames international wave of terror attacks on Iran and Sudan, but exonerates Libya, notwithstanding fact that most recent incidents involve Suni rather than Shi'ite Moslems, suggesting possible Iraqi involvement ...

13

15

South Africa

De Klerk government reported negotiating reincorporation of independent black homelands back into South Africa. Indications are Transkei and Venda will accept reunification, but Transkei is waffling ...

Defunct nuclear arms industry reportedly produced six fission weapons using locally enriched uranium. Weapons weighed 1,000 kg and were of the gun-assembly design used in original bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Yield was estimated at between 10 and 18 kilotons ...

1

16

China

Country suspends wheat imports from France as retaliation for French sale of 60 Mirage 2000 aircraft to Taiwan. French wheat sales to Beijing more than 2.5 million tons for first half of 1992 ...

2

19

Japan

Nation agrees to send 50 troops to join 7,500-man U.N. peacekeeping operation in Mozambique ...

21

Vietnam

Taiwan announces \$45 million soft loan to Vietnam, some to be used for highway project. Taiwan has quietly become Vietnam's largest foreign investor, with more than \$1 billion placed last year ...

Growing concern over Russia's ballooning arms trade with China believed behind decision to suspend talks over continued Russian presence at Cam Ranh Bay ...

20

Thailand

Last 33,000 Cambodian refugees in Thai camps scheduled for repatriation by late April. More than 300,000 have already been returned under U.N. sponsored program ...

4

Macedonia

"Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" admitted in U.N. after agreeing to accept above name and refrain from flying national flag. Conditions were demanded by Greece, opposing admission for months out of fear that using name "Macedonia" would fire separatist sentiment in Greece's Macedonian province ...

5

Czech Republic

Czech companies propose turning 800 tons of old paper currency issued by former Czechoslovakia into heating briquettes. Alternative plan of Czech National Bank officials concerned with air pollution is to shred money and mix it into building materials ...

8

Bangladesh

Nine die in firefight between gunmen of Revolutionary Communist Party and those of Bengal Communist Party, both banned political organizations ...

9

Iran

Military reported close to concluding deal with North Korea for purchase of improved Scuds, capable of reaching Israel ...

10

Lebanon

Lt. Col. Ihsan Mohammad Salem, top official of PLO *Fatah* faction in Beirut, becomes the latest PLO leader in-country to be assassinated, shot near his home in suburb of Talet al Kayyat ...

6

13

Algeria

Government breaks off diplomatic relations with Iran, accusing Islamic republic of backing Moslem rebels in Algeria ...

5

14

Angola

Government claims rebel Unita forces recruit South African, Zairean mercenaries and receive supplies from South Africa. Death of two mercs guarding oil facility in government area, one South African and one British, suggests both sides use services of foreign nationals ...

3

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17

Tibet

Fifteen pro-independence demonstrators arrested in Lhasa. Unrest marks anniversary of 1959 revolt against Chinese annexation ... Chinese government announces it will build a second road connecting Lhasa with Katmandu in Nepal ...

14

18

Taiwan

Taiwan's military modernization, including purchase of 150 F-16s from U.S. and 60 Mirage 2000s from France extends to ground forces as army prepares to select European vendor for purchase of 1,000 APCs, a substantial number to be equipped to carry 81mm mortars ...

15

22

Indonesia

More than 1,100 rebels on island of East Timor have surrendered to Indonesian forces since November capture of Fretilin guerrilla leader Jose Alexandre Gusmao ...

23

Burma

Sixty-one villagers die when caught in firefight between government forces and private troops of warlord and opium kingpin Khun Sa ...

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•For name of prize winner, send a SASE to '93 Sweepstakes Winners List, c/o SOF Magazine, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306

HUNTED DOWN ONE AT A TIME

Let all gun owners remember that the BATF's home invasion of Mr. Lawmaster, the BATF/FBI murder of Randy Weaver's wife and dog in Idaho, and the violent assault on the church group in Waco, Texas, were all brought about by the police enforcing alleged "gun law violations."

Certainly Big Brother will try to justify these attacks but the question remains: When will this fascist government come for your guns and what will you do to stop them? Either we stand together, or we surely will be hunted down one at a time.

Name withheld by request
Miami, Florida

ARMED RESISTANCE: THE FINAL OPTION

I am aware of the solutions proposed to protect the Constitution from the menace of anti-gunners, but nowhere do I find mention of what may become the necessary ultimate answer — armed resistance.

I know this sounds outlandish but consider that no less than the entire Bill of Rights and the freedom we enjoy is at stake. It is obvious to all but the most stupid that once the right to keep and bear arms is eliminated, the Constitution becomes no more than a scrap of paper.

Such resistance will be declared illegal of course, but is actually no more so than our stand against then-legal British colonial rule. The sad fact is that when oppressors are writing the laws there are not many options left. This does not mean we should abandon our legal efforts, i.e., why waste bullets when ballots are still effective.

Name withheld by request
Brussels, Belgium

MALE SEXUAL HARASSMENT

I read with great interest about the pattern of sexual harassment and reprisal against complainants at the BATF. I can personally attest that these practices are not limited to the BATF nor even to women.

Until just recently, I was the government contract specialist who purchased the ammunition and equipment for the Navy SEALs at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane, Indiana. As difficult as it is to imagine, I

was forced to file sexual harassment charges against my female supervisor. I was repeatedly told that it was inappropriate for me to complain because I am a man. When I refused to withdraw these charges, a Department of the Navy official threatened to "find" a reason to fire me. A month later, documents in my personnel file had been crudely altered and I find myself fired on a trumped-up charge.

Any Navy brass out there with any balls? I doubt it. The Navy seems to have an interesting double standard on sexual harassment. If a woman complains they fire an admiral, if a man complains they fire him! Maybe Rep. Pat Schroeder or Nadine Strosser of the ACLU will come to my aid in the interest of sexual equality. Yeah, right.

If anyone doubts that a former infantryman can be sexually harassed then I invite him to contact me through *Machine Gun News*. I have a monthly column called "The Ammo Bunker."

Dutch Hillenburg

You can write Machine Gun News at PO Box 759, Hot Springs, AR 71902.

THANKS FOR THE TRAINING

This is to express my sincere appreciation to you, Colonel Brown, for your generous help. You will remember well that during your visit to the Thai border in 1982 I took you to our headquarters for the Karen National Union. I made my request to you to send me instructors to train our young officer cadets. However, you made the

suggestion to send us first the instructors for our young soldiers, who are the basic foundation of the fighting forces. The following year your group of non-American instructors arrived and put forth their full efforts to train our troops. As a result, our young men became efficient combatants in many tested battles and caused an incredibly high rate of enemy casualties.

Our gratitude for your support will forever be ingrained in our hearts. Your efforts have saved countless lives. We look forward to future communications and support.

Col. Samson
Defense Secretary
Karen National Union
Kawthoolei

SOMALIA DOESN'T NEED LESS GUNS

I was appalled by one statement in Dale Cooper's otherwise excellent article on Somalia. "The critical problem ... is guns ... hope won't be restored ... until these weapons are off the streets." I would have expected this statement from Sarah Brady, Howard Metzenbaum or one of the other antigun fanatics featured so prominently in our news media. I certainly didn't expect to see it in *SOF*.

No, Mr. Cooper, the problem is not guns, it's irresponsible and criminally minded people. Take away their guns and they'll still be irresponsible and criminally minded. What the people of Somalia need is protection for life and property, not a fruitless antigun



crusade. If we embark on that, we'd be no more successful than the Soviets were in Afghanistan, and we'd be ignoring the real problems.

Joseph P. Martino
Sidney, Ohio

In the context of Dale Cooper's article, which detailed how every kid over 10 years old is toting a full-auto machine gun, the sentiment is understandable. But on a larger scale, with rights come responsibilities, and Somalis have shown they can't handle the responsibility of running a civilized society; why then should they be granted the same rights as civilized societies? Would Mr. Martino sanction letting Americans with a 1st grade education and mind-set run around with full-auto weapons on U.S. streets? Would he volunteer to be a police officer under these circumstances?

NOT ALL BLACKS ARE LIBERALS

This letter is to let you know that the liberal faction of American society does not speak for all black people. I have been a faithful reader of *SOF* since 1979 and, as a result, examine the activities of liberals in a different light.

Liberals draw their power base from desperate constituents looking for a better life but not willing to either regiment themselves or pay the price for success. One of the major pathways to success for minorities in the United States has been the military. Black career service members are not supportive of individuals who are unfortunate due to their own intent, because we have bothered to better ourselves by paying the price. Consequently, the military is the prime source of articulate black conservatives with leadership experience. The liberals realize this and are currently trying to disrupt the military through various ploys, like lifting the ban on gays..

When someone compares homophobia to racism it makes me want to puke. Racism is based on an immediate physical recognition of the victim. The victim need not say or do anything. As a rule, one does not become a victim of homophobia unless he or she admits to and/or is caught in the execution of a homosexual act. Homophobia victims get their various forms of mistreatment due to their own indiscretions.

SFC Harry M. Braxton, Jr.
Fort Knox, Kentucky

BETWEEN KNIFE AND DAGGER

Regarding your article on the Tomislav Brigade ("*SOF* Team Trains the King's Cadre," *SOF* April '93), I'd like to inform

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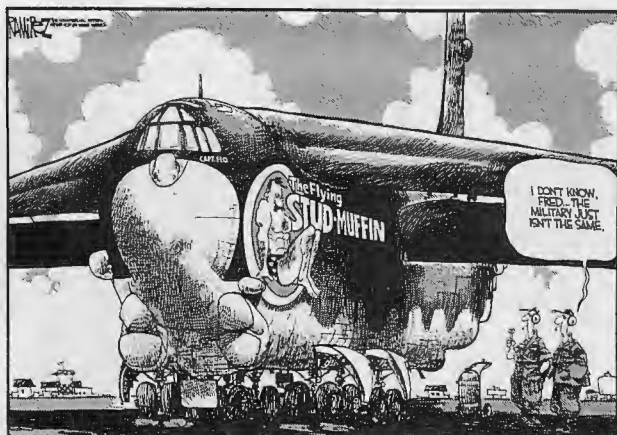
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your readers considering joining up with them that they may likely end up fighting Bosnian Moslems in Herzegovina instead of Serbs.

Though less brutal than their Serb counterparts in other parts of Bosnia, it's widely known and reported that the Croats there also indulge in "ethnic cleansing." And thanks to the bizarre and idiotic plan of Vance and Owen, the Bosnian Croats got more ground than they could ever dream of, and this has resulted in heavy fighting breaking out in central Bosnia between the former allied Croats and Moslems, most notably in Travnik, Prozor and Gornji Vakuf.

The Serbian Chetniks meanwhile just

watched, undoubtedly amused and with huge grins on their bearded faces. Don't get me wrong I whole heartedly support the Croats in their drive to get the Serbs out of their country, but right now it's the Moslems who need all the support they can get in order to survive. The Serbs are trying to slit their throats while the Croats are trying to

stab them in the back.

Name withheld by request
Amsterdam, Netherlands

GUTLESS, BARBARIC FISHERMEN

I thought I'd relate an incident that took place while muskie hunting at the aquarium along the Monongahela River recently. This old-timer was relating to me a local legend about a muskie that had been found along the shore in nearby New Eagle. This particular freshwater barracuda, if caught on rod and reel, would have become the new world record. This monster had, however, met its demise by choking on a duck.

Now this is an old story: I've heard this particular fish tale in Kentucky, Tennessee and Illinois, but I humored the old guy.

What makes this story interesting is the third individual present. She identified herself as a member of "PeckerETA." She then called us "gutless, barbaric criminals" and proceeded to launch into a tirade about how it was the fault of sportsmen like me that bald eagle, whooping crane, and other unwitting providers of propaganda populations are in decline.

After she finished that crock of horseshit, she went on to explain why that muskie deserved to die, killing poor innocent ducks like that. I thought, "I've known they were nuts, but this is spooky." I mean they've gone from a bunch of misguided Orwellian liars to totally ignorant idiots. This yo-yo was condemning this fish for playing out a survival drama that has been reenacted countless millions of times throughout the centuries. What's next, condemning dogs for pissing on trees? If so, let's all train our dogs to piss on the trees that Al Gore and the Artful Dodger are hugging.

Corporal Erik Von Guidotti
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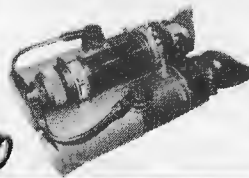


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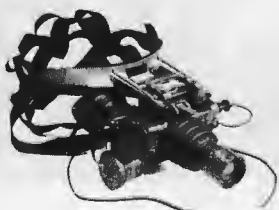
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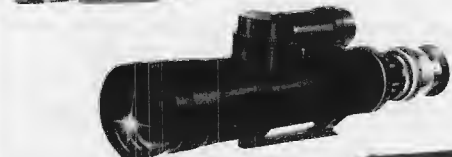


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COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

Text & Photos
by Louis Awerbuck

Don't Snub
The Snubbie

Buried deep in the cemetery of firearms design and evolution lies the Forgotten Soldier — the snub-nosed revolver.

Often maligned and the butt of derision, the snubbie has been, and will be, around for a long time. In fact, demand is so heavy that Colt is re-introducing their Detective Special.

The "usual" objections to this weapon are its relatively low ammunition capacity, complexity in loading and reloading, and its supposed "inaccuracy."

As the snubbie is usually encountered in .36-caliber (inevitably as .38 Special or .357 Magnum), and in its most common form contains either five or six rounds, it does indeed have a much lower cartridge capacity than a high-capacity semiauto of comparable caliber, such as a P-35 Browning or Glock. The advantages of the short-barreled, small-framed revolver, however, are in its inherent concealability and the availability of ammunition to feed it almost anywhere in the Free World.

Reasons for carrying this weapon can thus be cited as: concealability, portability, and its usefulness as an "ambidextrous" backup gun.

As for the supposed inaccuracy of this weapon type, it's more the singer than the song — if you can shoot accurately you will hit just as accurately at normal close-quarters confrontational distances with a snubbie as you will with any other handgun. The only limitation is the typically crude sights mounted on this breed of pistol.

Most problems encountered with the snub-nosed revolver can be attributed to the operator's lack of knowledge, ham-fistedness or lack of maintenance. The revolver, contrary to popular belief,



The cylinder latch is opened, the revolver is shifted to the left hand, inverted, and the palm of the right hand ejects all rounds.

is not as reliable as a semiauto if not regularly maintained. The weapon must be kept scrupulously clean, especially underneath the extractor star and in the barrel-forcing cone area. Regular checks must also be made to ensure that the ejector rod is tight and hasn't unscrewed during repeated operation.

The focus of this article is loading, reloading and general revolver manipulation techniques. The first rule of thumb is to know in which direction your revolver cylinder rotates when the weapon is fired. Smith & Wessons and Rugers, for example, rotate opposite to Colts. This one fact is the master key to all revolver loading and reloading functions.

If, for example, you have only enough time to load two or three rounds, ideally you want them to cycle under the firing pin before the empty chambers do.

Thus, in a Colt revolver, while manually rotating the cylinder in a counterclockwise direction during loading, individual cartridges should be inserted in a clockwise sequence in the chambers. Smiths and Rugers are manipulated exactly the opposite.

This ensures that the first chamber to line up underneath the hammer will contain a live cartridge if a half-loaded cylinder is hastily shut during an emergency.

Even though, by its very nomenclature, a cylinder is round in shape, two adjacent chambers are always in a straight line. This is another basic fact which simplifies the loading/reloading process and cuts down the overall time required to complete the sequence. Two individual rounds can be easily chambered simultaneously with very little practice,

based on this knowledge; it becomes even easier and faster using the Speed Strip manufactured by Bianchi International (Dept. SOF, 100 Calle Cortez, Temecula, CA 92590; phone: 800-477-8545, or 714-676-5621).

One of the few firearms accoutrements for which you get more than your money's worth, the Speed Strip is a straight rubber container that holds six rimmed cartridges in a secure, long-lasting, concealable package. Rounds can be loaded either singly or in pairs, based on the aforementioned "straight-line" principle.

While most firing-range reloading practice is conducted using speed loaders, these items have two serious drawbacks: They are bulky and difficult to conceal (probably the primary reason why most people resort to carrying a snubbie in the first place), and using a speed loader necessitates dumping *all* the rounds from the initial cylinder load, irrespective of whether some of the rounds are live cartridges. In other words, live ammo is often sacrificed in a revolver speed-load when using a cylindrical speed loader, whereas a tactical loader with or without a Speed Strip requires the replacement of only the fired brass.

The latter process is almost as fast and requires less manual dexterity — but it does not ordinarily have the mind-bending pressure tactically dictated by a speed load.

Again, if the speed loader is used, the "straight line" theory is applied. First contact the mouth of two adjacent chambers with the bullet noses, then rotate the remaining three or four cartridges into their respective chambers.

For a right-handed shooter, the speed load sequence runs thus:

Step 1: The cylinder is swung open, the revolver is transferred to the left hand, and the muzzle is elevated to full vertical to avoid any possibility of brass becoming entangled behind the extractor star. The cylinder is controlled by the left thumb and middle fingers.

Step 2: The ejector rod is firmly "pumped" with the right-hand palm to aid in positive brass/cartridge ejection.

Step 3: The gun muzzle is now pointed straight down, and the speed loader is employed as described above.

Step 4: The release mechanism on



With the muzzle down, rounds are fed into the chambers two at a time from the Speed Strip. The cylinder latch is opened, and the now-loaded cylinder is closed.

Continued on page 72

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THE LO

Some 250 Montagnard irregulars helped 12 SF troopers hold off two full NVA assault regiments storming tiny SF camp at Plei Me in Vietnam's Central Highlands, 19 October 1965. Here an SF sergeant lays in 81 mm mortar with Yard allies at Plei Me. Photo: DoD

In mid-October 1965, 12 Green Berets and some 250 Montagnards succeeded in repelling a prolonged assault by two NVA (North Vietnamese Army) regiments on the SF camp at Plei Me in the Central Highlands. For days communist sappers hurled explosive charges at the tiny fort, followed by waves of NVA infantry charging again and again. "Tribal riflemen and Special Forces sergeants fired weapons so rapidly that the barrels glowed," a witness wrote. Mortar and artillery pounded them, yet the good guys held out until relieved by an ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) armored column.

On another occasion, General William Westmoreland referred to the tribesmen's courage as "inspiring," after they helped fend off a regiment-sized attack on Camp Kannach, an SF outpost in Binh Dinh province. "We did not just get along well together, we flourished," recalled Colonel Rod Paschall in Tim Page and John Pimlott's book *Nam*. "The hill tribesmen had a great sense of humor, an admirable dignity and a well-developed code of honor. They were fun to be with."

In 1966 a treaty was carefully arranged by Gerald Hickey, an American anthropologist, wherein the South Vietnamese pledged to respect the Dega's tribal rights and property. Yet the agreement was soon violated by ARVN officers, against whom Montagnards mutinied in more than one incident. After the total U.S. pullout, the tribespeople were left to the mercies of the Vietnamese, north and south.

Forsaken Vow

During a meeting held at Saigon's American Embassy at the war's end in late April 1975, an implied promise was made by the CIA to FULRO leaders. The Agency indicated that if South Vietnam fell into Viet Cong and NVA hands, Montagnards would be guaranteed safe passage out of the war-ravaged country.

On 30 April 1975 the country did fall, almost three years after President Nixon's "Vietnamization" policy left the ARVN to fend for itself against encroaching communist forces. The CIA's promise to the Montagnards, however, was never kept. Overall, Indochina historians term this a sad oversight and a terrible episode in America's protracted involvement in Vietnam. But there were reasons.

As TV newscasts of the time revealed, absolute paranoia befell Saigon in the war's last days and this affected attempts to help as many Vietnamese who worked with the American government get out of the country with their dependents in tow. The Dega's pacific nature and their absolute faith that American friends would rescue them contrasted with the somewhat more aggressive demeanor, justifiable though it was, of the lowland Vietnamese in escaping communism.

One of those nonetheless heartsick was Edmund Sprague, a former intelligence officer who recalls attending the Saigon embassy meeting where the CIA promise was made. "It was politick-speak," he said, "but it was my understanding that the Montagnards would be taken care of." He believed this enough to tell a group of Dega to await a boat at Nha Trang that, he had been told, would arrive to pick them up on the eastern coast. The boat, like the

After nearly 30 years in the field, the Vietnam War recently ended for what is believed to be the last large group of armed Montagnards. Found in the remote jungles of Cambodia by former SOF correspondent Nate Thayer, they've now been resettled to Greensboro, North Carolina.

Greensboro has often opened its arms to Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian refugees, but takes particular pride in having twice welcomed groups of Montagnards (known simply as "Yards" to those who served with them, or *Dega* in their own tribal language).

Ask any Special Forces veteran who served with the "Yards" and he will likely tell you tales of unmatched heroism, courage and dedication on the part of these hardy, idealistic hill tribesmen.

One such veteran is Brigadier General Richard W. Potter Jr., the deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army's Special Operations Command at nearby Fort Bragg who was deployed to Vietnam several times between 1965 and 1970.

At a mid-December 1992 Greensboro reunion that included SF vets, Potter had a chance to welcome 397 newly arrived Montagnards at Quaker-run Guilford College, an event jointly sponsored by the General Cooperative Montagnard Association and the Dega Association of North Carolina.

"We were 12-man teams in an isolated area with 700 indigent troops. We assimilated into their culture. Our world became the world of a marvelous people," Potter said. On one occasion he was wounded three times in four hours. The colonel's (then) 160-pound frame and 40 pounds of gear were carried out of the jungle to safety by five "little people," as he calls them.

Historically removed from Vietnamese society, Montagnard tribes were generally left alone by Vietnamese emperors and French colonial rulers so long as these "moi," or savages, paid tribute and taxes. Malaria was prevalent in the remote Central Highlands, while farming potential there was poor; therefore the area was uninviting to lowlanders and colonists. Yet hostilities erupting in 1946 between Ho Chi Minh's communists and the French would destroy the Dega's seclusion.

Officially, Montagnard militia are known as FULRO, an acronym for *Front Uni pour la Libération des Races Opprimées*, or United Front for the Liberation of the Oppressed Races. FULRO officially dates back to 1964, but Montagnards were also allied with French forces during the first Indochina War against the communist Viet Minh from 1946-54.

"It was more than combat. It was birthing babies, preventive medicine, drinking [legendary potent rice wine] out of their *uga* jars. They made us welcome in their longhouses," Potter recalled.

LONGEST YARDS

Vietnam War Ends After Three Decades For Montagnard Holdouts

by Marc Phillip Yablonka



Montagnard veterans proudly sing FULRO national anthem at Greensboro reunion, many in same camo they wore when discovered in Cambodia by former *SOF* Foreign Correspondent Nate Thayer. Photo: courtesy author

promised rescue, never came.

Years later Sprague learned how his friends had faithfully waited, and waited ... and waited.

Cambodian Deceit

What ensued after 1975 was a bloody trail connecting Montagnards with the communist Khmer Rouge, responsible for the genocide of an estimated 1 million people in neighboring Cambodia. Using the infamous "killing fields" as an excuse, Vietnamese forces occupied Cambodia in 1978. The guerrillas convinced FULRO troops that if they joined in fighting to extricate Vietnamese from Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge would assist Montagnards in establishing safe tribal borders within Vietnam.

Once again the Montagnards were lied to.

"If a FULRO soldier refused to fight alongside them, which they did, his wife would be raped, tortured and murdered right before his eyes. It was a very unhappy 15-year marriage," noted Don Scott, a former civilian hospital administrator for Project Concern. He came to know and love the Montagnards while working in the mid-1960s at the relief association's hospital in Vietnam's Kontum province. He has twice helped groups of hill tribesmen escape from Vietnam and resettle in the United States.

The first time was in 1986 when, based on the CIA's bygone promise, he pressured the U.S. State Department and embassy officials in Bangkok to expedite release of some 220 Montagnards from refugee camps in Thailand. Among those freed was his old friend and hospital assistant H'Doi Ksa, whom Scott had presumed was killed.

Then in late summer 1992, on assignment covering the Khmer Rouge for *Far Eastern Economic Review*, former *SOF* correspondent Nate Thayer literally stumbled upon 398 Montagnards holed

up in the jungles of Cambodia. Knowing FULRO forces and their families have for years faced the threat of annihilation, not only for the communist Vietnamese forces, but from southern Vietnamese as well, Scott was overjoyed by this news. Almost instantaneously he was off to Cambodia, along with Pierre K'briuh, onetime prisoner of Hanoi and now president of the Dega Association of North Carolina.

K'briuh was flown into the jungle by a U.N. helicopter to convince his fellow Montagnards to lay down their weapons in return for resettlement in the United States. "I was afraid that they would be dissolved or sent back to Vietnam and killed if we didn't get to them in time," he stressed.

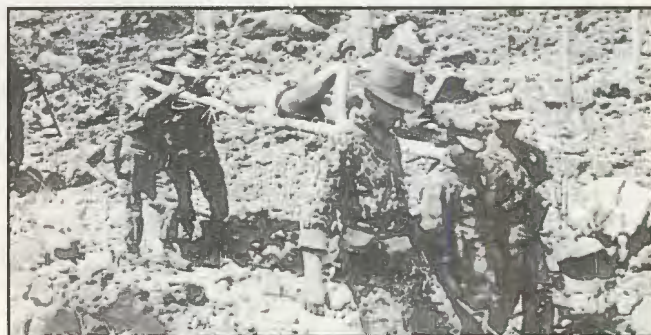
Scott stayed behind in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to negotiate U.N.-guaranteed safe passage for the Montagnards from Khmer country into Thailand, where they would await flights to the United States. He received this promise from Sergio Vieira de Mello, the Brazilian head of the U.N. High Commission for Refugees office in Cambodia.

In The Land Of The Free

"I can never thank [de Mello] enough for his assistance in the matter," Scott said, noting how (former) Vice President Dan Quayle was also instrumental in finding a home for our onetime allies. Scott was later largely responsible for putting together the Greensboro reunion of Montagnards and SF veterans.

But one of the Dega could not make the reunion, having passed away just after arriving stateside. Observed *The Drop*, a Special Forces Association journal, "Do not mourn him. He lived his life a free man and he died in the land of the free."

As an SF vet and current director of the Montagnards resettle-



Montagnards and adviser medevac wounded tribesman near Cheo Reo, mid-1960s. Photo: Jim Morris

ment program at Greensboro's Lutheran Family Services (LFS) office, Michel Strickland spoke strongly about the hill tribes: "They showed us how to live in the jungles. Now it's finally our turn to show them how to live in America — it's payback time."

Strickland's office sponsored a majority of immigrant Montagnards who settled in Greensboro, the Raleigh-Durham area, or in Charlotte, North Carolina. The LFS office locates apartments for the tribespeople and helps see to their needs, paying \$465 per family toward rent along with move-in deposits. The LFS office also assists landlords in renovations.

Training in the English language and acculturating hill

Continued on page 67

NO PEAC

SOF Pops Caps With Khmer Rouge

by John Kreiger

A high-pitched squeal interrupted the silence on the Cambodia International Airlines flight. "Welcome Phnom Penh," a woman's voice said. "Thank you flying us. Have happy stay. Good luck." Good luck? I looked back out the window: parched soil, scrawny buffaloes wandering aimlessly, a decrepit hut surrounded by naked children running in circles ... Maybe I would need good luck in this place.

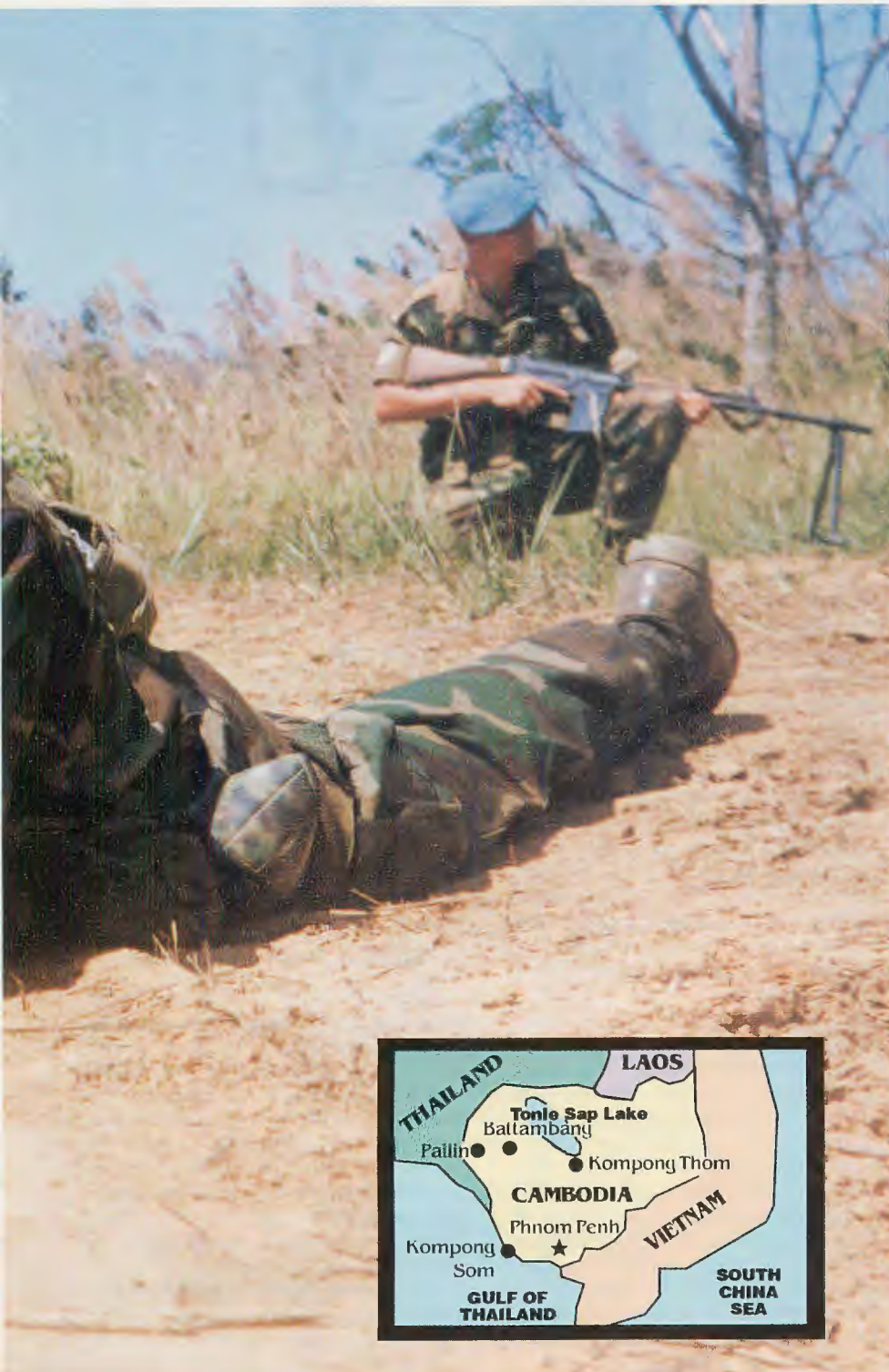
The big news when I arrived was that the SOC (State of Cambodia, the Hanoi-installed, current government) was about to launch several large-scale offensives against the extreme-Maoist Khmer Rouge. All four major Cambodian political/military factions had signed the 1991 peace accords in Paris, but the Khmer Rouge had since bailed.

The KPNLF (Khmer People's National Liberation Front) and FUNCINPEC (the royalist faction headed by Prince Sihanouk's son) were abiding by U.N. demands to disarm a majority of troops and keep a low profile. So was the SOC, but even after cooperating with the U.N., it still had tens of thousands of men in the field and no shortage of weapons.

Shortly after signing in Paris, Khmer Rouge leaders said there were still foreign (Vietnamese) troops in the country, which was disallowed by the agreements. Until there was absolute proof that there were no Vietnamese soldiers remaining, they would not cooperate. And, unfortunately for those who had hoped for peace in the ravaged, war-torn country, by sitting it out, the Khmer Rouge was becoming considerably stronger.



E TO KEEP



SOF Under Fire With U.N.

Text & Photos
by Peter Douglas

It was just after midnight

when the deep staccato of gunfire shattered the silence. I instinctively leaped from my canvas cot, only to find myself wrapped like a trout in a net. With my arms bound in folds of mosquito netting, I plummeted helplessly to the wooden floor.

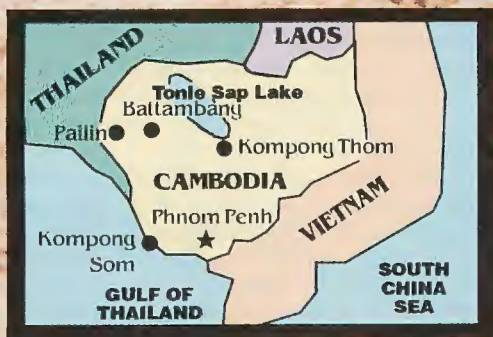
Out beyond the wire more rifle fire crackled and, now wide awake, I focused on what was going down: night attack. Sok San was the most isolated U.N. base in Cambodia, formerly a company position. It was now held by only 54 Dutch marines, and knowing there were up to 12,000 Khmer Rouge in the surrounding jungle was no comfort.

A Dutch fast reaction force was on permanent standby at Sisophon, but they were 40 minutes away by air. If the shots in the night grew into a full-blown attack, Sok San would be hard pressed to hold out long enough for the heliborne "cavalry" to arrive in time to do much more than a body count.

This was my 13th trip to Cambodia since 1985 and differed significantly from the rest. Past tours had been with the former Non-Communist Resistance (NCR) and involved dangerous treks

Armed with FN FALs and AKs, Dutch marine patrol deploys into 360 degree defense outside the wire at isolated Sok San base in Chaine des Cardamomes Mountains.

Left Inset: Dutch marine behind FN MAG 58 GPMG in defensive bunker at Sok San. Nearest support is 40 minutes away by air.



Khmer Rouge cadre, responsible for killing more than a million of their fellow countrymen between 1975-1979, had turned the U.N. "cease-fire" into a weapon. With the other factions pacified by the Paris accord, they were walking freely into places that they would have had to fight for before the United Nations arrived. Firmly in control of huge areas bordering Thailand, they were also getting stinking rich. Logging and gem-mining concessions made with various Thai companies were bringing in close to U.S. \$1 million a month; car-smuggling rings and other trade was just icing on the rice cake.

In February, when the SOC had seen enough, it decided to fight back. To see what was going on, I headed to the city of Battambang. Not surprisingly, the C-130 I flew in to get there was filled with a bizarre mix of people: Chinese engineers, Bulgarian soldiers, Japanese cops, Tunisian military observers — part of almost 22,000 U.N. people here in the unprecedented \$3 billion operation.

Trekking Down The Sociopath

Sitting next to me was a Belgian doctor, who, over the roar of propellers, was telling me why so many Cambodians acted so strange. I had noticed strange behavior several times since arriving.

"You have to understand that most adults in this country are suffering from some kind of mental problem," the Belgian doctor said. "Most common is post-traumatic stress disorder from the Khmer Rouge years." He said that giving older Cambodians responsibility had sometimes proved to be a risky matter where he worked. "A while back we had to give an older guy a problem to work out, something he had to make a decision on. After looking at the problem for a while, he got up and literally ran away. He didn't come back until the next week. Other people, as young as 25, have severe problems remembering anything."

Despite its sleepy appearance, Battambang turned out to be a wild place. Deep in western Cambodia and surrounded by Khmer Rouge strongholds, the city was seeing its share of political violence. On my second day there, someone tossed a few grenades into a building down the street. "It was Khmer Rouge," the old Chinese-Cambodian guy who owned the hotel I was staying in told me. "At night the building was a brothel, staffed by Vietnamese ladies. That's how we know it was Khmer Rouge." No one was hurt in the attack. Several people were killed a couple of weeks earlier, however, when a Vietnamese bar was hit with several rocket-propelled grenades, caught fire and burned to the ground.

I eventually found someone who knew what was going on in the place: L.D. Davies, a senior official with the UNHCR

(High Commission for Refugees). "It's usually reported that only about 5% of the population supports the Khmer Rouge," he said, "but people who have been here for a while, especially out in the countryside, know that the number is more like 15%. I would guess that they also control roughly a fourth of Cambodia's territory." Sitting in a swarm of flies in a restaurant, the female owner of the place, a friend of Davies, invited us to take a look at a piece of furniture she had bought.

Firing Tables

When she opened the door to her room, grenades went rolling across the floor. Then I looked around. Not only were there live grenades everywhere, but a dozen AK-47s lined one wall and a loaded RPG launcher leaned up against a corner. I don't know if I ever noticed her furniture. Battambang was up to its eyebrows in weaponry. After convincing the Chinese-Cambodian guy at the hotel that I wasn't with the United Nations, I was able to get a list of what was being sold, all prices in U.S. dollars: AK-47, \$31; M16, \$37; UZI submachine gun, \$65; M79 grenade launcher, \$269; 60mm mortar tube, \$1,923; 82mm mortar tube, \$3,717; .38 pistol, \$56; .45 pistol, \$126; fragmentation grenade, \$1.

Davies and I were in his U.N. truck a day or two later, air-conditioner blasting in the mind-numbing heat. We slowed down near a vacant hotel. Attached to the hotel was a small white building. "That's it," Davies said. "See that door with the human-rights poster on it? That's where Brigadier General Dounsamith stays. He's a divisional commander, but is also the current liaison for the PDK [Party of Democratic Kampuchea, the formal name of the Khmer Rouge]. Good luck trying to see him, though, the guy's not real accessible." I was still looking at the poster — this was too much, even in Cambodia.



Diplomatic Dutch get on well with locals, but locals may or may not side with a faction which supports U.N. presence.

Early the next afternoon I set out from my hotel, walked past where the grenade attack had taken place and found a moped to take me to the vacant hotel. When I approached the little white building, young soldiers woke from their naps to get up and stand in my way, fingers on their triggers. None spoke a word of English, so I stood there and babbled in English until I think they got tired of listening. Finally, two of them escorted me over while the rest

went back to their hammocks.

Dounsamith and a KPNLF general, Pheng An, were sitting outside downing the last of their lunch. When I told Pheng An that I was a journalist, he said they were busy, sorry, and could not do any interviews today. They looked busy — sitting around in their underwear sucking on chicken bones. I didn't feel like leaving, however, and finally got permission to ask "one or two questions." I had to do this right, I was thinking, not let the opportunity slip away. My first question: "General Dounsamith, no doubt there are still many thousands of smelly and despicable Vietnamese infiltrators in Cambodia trying to colonize your country. How many do you think there are?"

Candor From A Beer Can

We were still at a little bar on the outskirts of Battambang five hours later, a small forest of empty Angkor beer cans covering the table. General Inaccessible was going on about how much he wanted peace. "We don't like to fight, but peace in Cambodia is impossible with so many Vietnamese here. There are more than 2 million of them, and several thousand are former soldiers. They still get their orders from Hanoi, some from right here in Battambang at the Vietnamese consulate."

The United Nations and the Vietnamese government disagree, saying there are only a few soldiers who married Cambodian women and stayed behind after the

through the jungle on foot — journeys in which the pervading feature was fear: fear of chance encounter with the cutting edge of the 100,000-strong Vietnamese occupation force; fear of walking into a carefully prepared ambush; fear of stepping on one of the 12 million mines estimated to lay in Cambodia's uncharted mine fields; fear of mortar showers; fear of sudden death, and (dominating all the rest) the big one — a fear that gnawed away at your insides and never left you until you were safely back in Thailand — the fear of terminal battlefield injuries.

No one talked about it, as if to mention it would be to court disaster. Constantly on the move, with little medical backup, such a wound meant a lingering, agonizing death in the steamy heat of the jungle. With this pervasive fear came a secondary fear — of being abandoned to die. Not only an agonizing death, but a lonely one.

On more than one occasion I had come upon the mouldering bones of men who had fallen in battle and crawled off to die. You could read their faces from their remains. Mixed in with the bones were fragments of rusting weapons and personal effects. Such items are normally looted by the victors if they find the body.

New Scenes Of A New Era

But things had changed dramatically in Cambodia since my last visit in 1990. After 10 years of occupation and incessant guerrilla warfare, the Vietnamese army had withdrawn, opening the way in 1991 to the signing in Paris of a peace agreement between the contending Cambodian factions.

Under the terms of that agreement, the United Nations sent a peace-keeping force to Cambodia to verify the withdrawal of the Vietnamese (diplomatically referred to as "foreign forces"); to oversee the hand over of power from the Phnom Penh regime (installed by Vietnam after its 1978

invasion and never recognized by the United Nations); and to repatriate the entire population of the country in preparation for "free and fair" elections slated for May 1993.

By 1992, a U.N. peacekeeping force of some 22,000 personnel had been deployed in Cambodia, not only to maintain the uneasy peace, but to bring about an atmosphere conducive to free and fair elections in a country riven with factional fighting and devastated by war. The scale of the task is enormous. It is the most ambitious such

scheme ever undertaken by the United Nations and, at a cost of \$3 billion dollars, it is also the most expensive.

The problem is that the agreement signed in Paris, which purported to provide the basis for a multilateral disarmament, is both the foundation stone of the peace plan, and a stumbling block of contention. Each side, convinced that it gained the upper hand in negotiations, jealously guards the advantages they felt were agreed to.

The Khmer Rouge vociferously complain that the United Nations has failed to ensure even the fulfillment of the first clause of the

agreement — the removal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia. In fact, there are an estimated 200,000 Vietnamese still in Cambodia, although these are mostly civilian settlers. While there may be many former soldiers among these settlers, the United Nations says its mandate is only to look for formed military units: There is thus a question of interpretation, which leads to contention.

Claiming U.N. betrayal over the first clause, the Khmer Rouge have subsequently refused to comply with the second clause of the peace agreement: multilateral disarmament of all factions. The net result has been an increasingly hard-line attitude between the two principal antagonists, the Khmer Rouge and the Phnom Penh regime. This has involved not only ever-greater and more frequent violations of the

cease-fire, but an upsurge in political violence against civilians.

Peacekeepers In White

Upon my arrival in Phnom Penh, the U.N. presence was immediately apparent. White U.N. trucks, cars and jeeps crowded the streets like a blizzard of giant snowflakes. Only a year ago you could have counted the number of cars in the city on one hand, now there were traffic jams. Isolated by years of conflict, Phnom Penh had been a city asleep in a time capsule, but the arrival of the United Nations had plunged it into the 20th century. There was feverish construction everywhere. New hotels and restaurants were springing up like mushrooms. Inflation was rampant. With brand-new shops bulging with modern conveniences such as refrigerators and washing machines, everyone was hungry for dollars.

I did not intend to stay long in the capital. Phnom Penh might be the bureaucratic center, but the litmus test for the U.N. effort in Cambodia would be in the countryside and remote provincial towns. It was Chinese New Year and Yasushi Akashi, head of the U.N. mission in Cambodia, was making a goodwill visit to a Chinese military engineering unit. I managed to board the Russian Mi-26 helicopter taking him to Kompong Thom, one of the "fault lines" where there is friction between the Khmer Rouge and the Phnom Penh regime. This most often manifests itself in exchanges of artillery and rocket fire, spiced up by limited ground clashes. There recently has also been a fair amount of fresh mine planting by both sides, leading mostly to more civilian deaths.

I headed down to the stunningly unspoiled Cambodian coastline of Kompong Som. The coast and river estuaries are being patrolled by United Nations Military Observers (UNMOs). There it was my good fortune to encounter a Major Bailey of the U.S. Army, who was attached to a monitoring team in Sihanoukville. He was able to secure permission for me to accompany him on a mission.

Of Decoys And Diplomacy

There had been a reported sighting of surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) with a small Phnom Penh regime naval unit on Koh Khong island. U.N. aircraft were the only ones flying in the region and, as they had already been fired upon with small arms by Phnom Penh forces, the presence of SAMs was cause for some concern. Bailey was tasked with searching for SAMs while seated inside the perfect SAM target — a low-altitude, slow-moving helicopter! Such hazards were a regular feature of his work as an UNMO.

We made a quick stop on the



Dutch marine at Sok San examines sagging racks of RPC machine guns removed from circulation. Despite U.N. efforts, brisk trade continues on the black market in everything from pistols to mortars.

official 1989 Vietnamese withdrawal. But an associate of Davies in the UNHCR, who has worked in and around Cambodia for 14 years, thinks that the Khmer Rouge is correct. "Vietnam didn't invade this place, kick out the Khmer Rouge, rule for 10 years, set up a puppet government, then just go home," he said. "Of course they left troops behind, and not just a few. I have no idea how many Vietnamese mercenaries remain here, but if you tell me none, you're stupid."

Disdain for the Vietnamese among most Cambodians was palpable, and perhaps the only reason why Dounsamith and Pheng An could sit down together. Soldiers from the two Cambodian factions had been killing each other for years, but they occasionally worked together when the target was the Vietnamese or the SOC. Dounsamith said it best: "If Khmer Rouge concerns are not taken seriously by the U.N. and the KPRLF sides against us in a new government, then my friend Pheng An here will be my enemy and I will kill him. But if he helps us get rid of *yuon* [a pejorative term for the Vietnamese], then there's no problem."

Not long after this conversation, between 30 and 40 Khmer Rouge cadre emerged from the bush and commandeered fishing boats on Tonle Sap lake, 27 miles to the east of us. They surrounded a floating village of houseboat-like vessels belonging to ethnic Vietnamese fishermen, then opened fire. The massacre left 34 people dead, including 10 children. "There were babies with their hands shot off," a U.N. investigator said. "The attackers got into one houseboat and shot the kids in the head. It was that savage."

This was only the latest of many massacres occurring around the country, most perpetrated by the Khmer Rouge. A handful of U.N. people have also been murdered. Both the Khmer Rouge and the SOC have grounds for disliking the United Nations, but analysts believe the U.N. workers were most likely killed by the Khmer Rouge. In an attempt to intimidate opposition parties, especially FUNCINPEC, the SOC is probably responsible for much of Cambodia's growing political violence, including dozens of assassinations.

Before staggering home, Dounsamith gave me permission to travel to Khmer Rouge-occupied areas. Although he had to go to Phnom Penh the next day with Pheng An, he arranged to have one of his troops stationed at the vacant hotel, 16-year-old Sok Vihan, accompany me. Early the next morning, as promised, Vihan showed up, in uniform.

This set off an emotional explosion at the hotel, where the kid working at the desk had lost three grandparents, assorted uncles and his father at the hands of the Khmer Rouge. As I had forgotten to inform anyone the night before that the young cadre would be showing up, by the



How do you map a national tragedy? At Toul Sleng, former Khmer Rouge extermination center in Phnom Penh, map was pieced together from skulls of victims. Current Vietnamese-installed government makes much of Khmer years of terror, does not mention own participation.

time I got downstairs everyone was screaming at everyone else. Vihan reluctantly let me pull him outside before things got bloody.

After a quick stop at a market, we pointed our rental mopeds west on Highway 10, toward Pailin. The Khmer Rouge maintained its main base in Cambodia at Pailin, although Pol Pot and his guards were holed away just across the Thai border. There were also 12 U.N. people in Pailin, held by the Khmer Rouge under house arrest. This was in addition to an unknown number of U.N. trucks, jeeps and radios that the Khmer Rouge had placed under "house arrest" over the months.

"No U.N. America. Come."

Vihan was typical Khmer Rouge: no education, illiterate, very silent. I think he smiled once during the three hours it took to get to our destination, a group of shacks near the town of Treng. Our biggest obstacles were Malaysian infantrymen, who sometimes waved us by, but other times said forget it, turn around, get out of here. They had little authority to

stop us, though, so on we went, heads full of warnings about mines, fighting, bandits, you name it. The most dangerous thing we encountered, however, were moped-hating buffaloes, all of which had to be in heat. We were chased off the road four times.

After stowing our mopeds under some shacks, Vihan and I began an hour-long walk through abandoned rice paddies to the Khmer Rouge encampment. My arrival was not expected. As soon as we got near the place, a guard yelled. We stopped. Kalashnikov in hand, a cadre bolted from his hammock, ran over at full speed and began screaming at Vihan. Young Vihan was not having a good day today. Noise continued for two or three minutes, the time it took for the kid to locate where he had stuck his note from Dounsamith. Things cooled off after it was found. Captain Samreth, the screaming cadre, carefully read the thing a few times, then looked up and said, "Yes. No U.N. America. Come."

After pointing out where I could stay, a corner in a hut full of tools, Samreth, in charge of the group, showed me around. He was in command of about 15 cadre, most of whom were around 18 years old. They had one large artillery piece, used the day before to retaliate against a minor SOC attack. According to Samreth, also the only one who could speak some English in the group, the SOC fired six artillery rounds at them the evening before, so they fired 12 rounds back.

Not much else seemed to be going on until Samreth said, "Four days before bad. BM-21 rocket. You look." We walked over to one of the huts. Two cadre that I thought had just been dozing along with the others were messed up. One had a shoulder full of shrapnel; the other, awkwardly stretched over his hammock on his stomach, had similar wounds on his back. Untreated water brought in from Treng, consisting mostly of bacteria and parasites, was being used to "cleanse" the wounds, hence their green color. If these guys didn't die from their injuries, they certainly would from their treatment. Three cadre had been killed outright in the attack.

True to their xenophobic ideology, Samreth's young cadre were acting as though I wasn't there. One kid shuffled over to my hut to look through my belongings; another pointed in the distance and tried to tell me something in Khmer. Aside from a few blank stares, that was the extent of our contact. Fortunately, Samreth had more on his mind. Having brought only water to drink, I sat in his hut one night crunching a dry pack of ramen noodles as he told me about his situation. Chinese-made candles stuck into the dirt floor were doing little to cut through the darkness.

There was a U.N. outpost across a nearby range of mountains. He didn't know

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Dutch marines and Cambodians on mobile patrol in gun jeep mounting FN MAG 58. U.N. forces work with all factions, staying neutral, keeping the peace by attempting to keep warring factions apart.

there have been increasing reports of attacks against their isolated communities (see accompanying article).

What Peace Can Bring

The final phase of my trip was spent in western Cambodia. It was in the forests of that region that many of my past trips with the resistance had developed into a cat-and-mouse game with the Vietnamese — with us as the mouse! On returning, I found new roads plowed through the previously silent forest. It was now possible to drive, at 100 kph, across the same terrain where we had previously averaged a very cautious 20 clicks a day, often less. Where before there had been nothing but military outposts and the occasional poverty-stricken village, now the land was alive with human activity.

Thma Pok was a barely recognizable boomtown. New buildings were going up and the town had mushroomed and swallowed up what once were empty fields. A thriving new market had replaced the smoldering remains of the one I had seen in 1989, shortly after it had burned during the attack to capture the town. Now trade flowed freely from the border with Thailand, and the market was bursting with goods for sale.

From Thma Pok, I managed to hitch a ride on a Russian Mi-17 helicopter for the hop down to Sok San, a small beleaguered outpost of Dutch marines in the Khmer Rouge stronghold of the

southwestern Chaine des Cardamomes mountains. In Sok San the Dutch Marines welcomed me with all the warm hospitality for which they are justifiably famed.

I arrived just in time to join a patrol. From their base, the Marines regularly inspected the perimeters of the area under their control. The patrol

was ferried along the only road on Swedish tracked vehicles designed for snow-covered terrain and usually used by the marines for

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Douglas heard distant machine-gun fire while flying in Russian Mi-17 chopper to U.N. jungle base. Fire turned out to be not too distant: After landing, Russian pilot inspects bullet hole in fuel tank.

eastern tip of Koh Khong at a small jungle base to pick up an armed escort of two French Foreign Legion troopers. A few minutes later we were back out to sea and heading to the western end of the island. Then we turned ashore, skimming the silver sands of the beach and dropping over a line of coconut palms into a clearing. The team hopped out and followed Bailey through the waist-high grass that rippled under the powerful downdraft from the rotor blades.

Inside the small Cambodian naval camp, Bailey asked to see the commanding officer. The CO was absent, but his second-in-command emerged warily to ascertain the reason for the unexpected U.N. visit. Allowing no room for misunderstanding, Bailey asked to see the SAM missiles.

Taken aback, the Cambodian officer assured us that there were no such weapons on the island, only a few old 14.5mm antiaircraft guns. His smile never wavering, Bailey gently pressed his point until the Cambodian sheepishly admitted that he *might* have one missile. Eventually a long wooden crate was dragged out from under a

table for inspection. As the Cambodian pried the lid off, Bailey emitted a low whistle. Bingo! Nestled in the crate was a carefully packed SAM-7. The ice broken, a second crate was hauled out, containing an additional two missiles. But the Cambodian officer continued to give an emphatic negative to suggestions that the weapons be handed over to the United Nations.

Foolishly, I presumed that was that. But Bailey was not a man to be trifled with. For him, "No" was merely a place from which to begin negotiations. Over the next hour I was impressed by the calm persistence with which he turned the conversation around. At the end of that time, with relentlessly friendly persuasion, he had somehow succeeded in confiscating (*canton* was the term he used) the trigger mechanisms and battery power packs for all three missiles, thereby rendering them inoperable. Before their erstwhile owner had time to reconsider, Bailey was back in the helicopter taking off en route to Sihanoukville to report.

Next I went to Siem Reap province, another chafing point between the Khmer Rouge and the Phnom Penh regime, where there have been plenty of localized clashes in the surrounding villages and forests. The Khmer Rouge have also been targeting local Vietnamese settlers, whom they consider to be legitimate targets, and



In U.N. white and bearing new Russian flag, Russian-supplied and piloted Mi-26 is one of many such workhorses moving men and matériel on ambitious peacekeeping project in Cambodia.

WHAT WENT WRONG



It needs to be made clear from the outset that this examination will not focus on the individual performances of the four brave men of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (ATF) who were killed on the morning of 28 February 1993 east of Waco, Texas, nor on the 16 ATF agents who were wounded at the same time. Nor should we cast stones at those ATF agents who were ordered to take part in the unsuccessful assault on the Branch Davidians' compound.

This examination will focus on ATF's assault plan, the execution of the plan and the leadership of the ATF responsible for the conduct of the entire assault effort and failure to accomplish the mission on 28 February. As a "self-appointed expert," to quote ATF Director Stephen Higgins, this writer believes it's prudent and most fitting to hold school on Higgins and his lieutenants for the gross lack of leadership they exercised during the planning and preparation phase, and in the assault phase.

It is apparent that Higgins and his lieutenants have never busted a cap nor smelled the smoke from gunpowder during a conflict with an armed adversary. If they have combat experience, they forgot everything they learned. ATF's failure to accomplish its mission, coupled with the loss of four ATF agents, rests squarely on Higgins' shoulders and he should be held accountable. Had a similar event taken place in the U.S. Army, the responsible party would now be serving time in the correctional facility at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Every principle involved in mounting and conducting a successful raid/assault operation was violated by the leadership of the ATF. The principle of *objective* was not obtainable from the outset. Warrants to arrest certain cult members (David Koresh) and to search for and seize illegal weapons and explosive devices inside the compound were never served. I regret to say it, but there are those on the street who believe that the ATF's objective

on the morning of 28 February was to impress the new secretary of the Treasury Department, to pave part of the way for a larger annual budget.

Building Takedown 101

Anyway you cut it, the ATF failed to accomplish its objective. In addition, *Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence* (commonly referred to as "C³I") are vital to all operations. The commander of the assault force made numerous mistakes in judgment; however, the most blatant one was his inability to examine the assault from start through finish to determine two important factors:

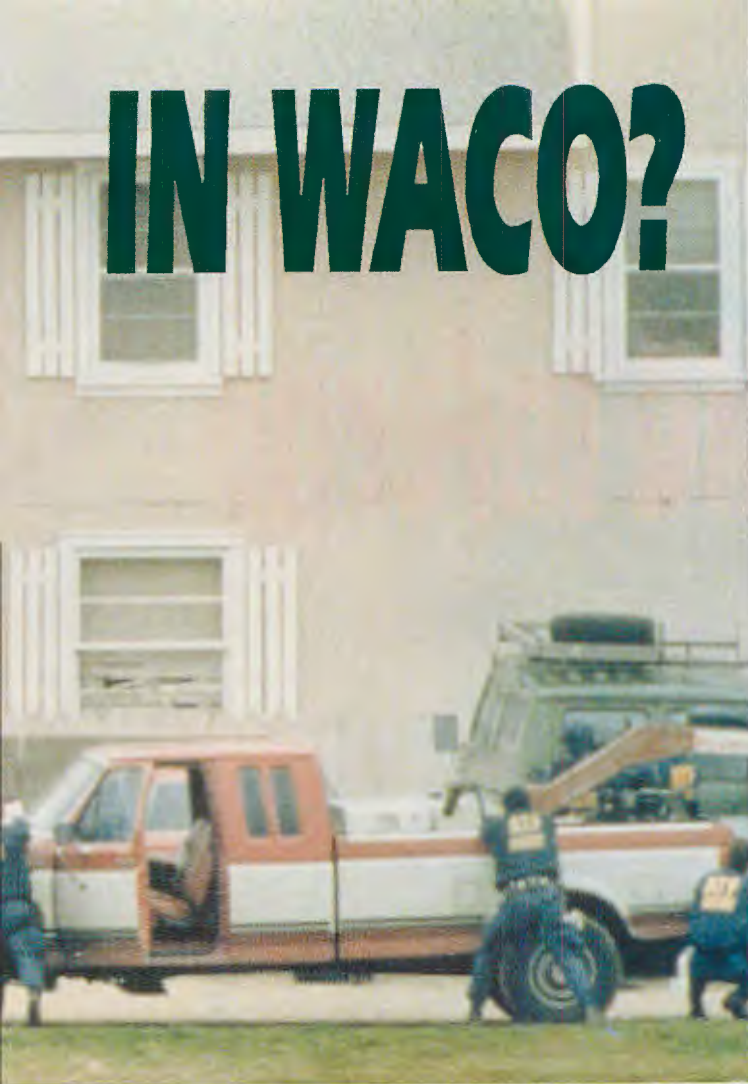
- *The risk to human life within the assault force and to the cult group inside the compound.*
- *Assessment of the assault's probability of success.*

Any commander who is unable to honestly perform the above examination has no business in command. Additionally, any director of a U.S. government agency similar to the ATF should ensure that both the risk and probability of success have been carefully and realistically hammered out. The decision to undertake any assault is based on these two factors.

Of course, there must be a clear understanding of the capabilities of any adversary in order to weld together a viable plan. Intelligence along with intelligence gathering about all aspects of the adversary provide the framework to determine capabilities. A careful examination of capabilities considering weather conditions, training of your own forces, time of the planned assault and security measures are all part of what is called *mission planning*.

ATF needs to adopt a new motto, "P-P-P-P-P-P (Prudent Prior Planning Prevents Piss-Poor Performance)." Had ATF leadership carefully undertaken the steps outlined above, they would not have attempted the assault on 28 February. Also, no com-

IN WACO?



Poor Planning, Bad Tactics Result In Botched Raid

by Col. Charlie Beckwith

mander can be successful if he or she works in a vacuum. He must talk to his subordinate commanders and make sure that every individual involved in the assault understands his task and the tasks of those on his left and right.

Unfortunately this was not the case with the commander of the ATF assault force. A short time before the actual assault, while in the staging area, the commander was made aware of the fact that he had lost the *element of surprise*.

I laugh every time I hear Higgins or one of his lieutenants say, "we lost the *element of surprise*" and "someone informed the cult we were coming." Has Director Higgins never heard of contingency planning? I recall a time in South Vietnam when a group of Special Forces soldiers was only seconds away from assaulting its target, then one of them tripped on a vine and accidentally discharged his weapon. We immediately went to Plan B, a contingency plan, accomplishing our mission without a single casualty.

I cried when I heard that four ATF agents had been killed and 16 wounded in the wake of this poorly thought-out attack and became very angry when I learned that there was no, repeat *no*, medical team or doctor attached to the assault force. It took more than three hours to evacuate personnel.

OPSEC A Joke

Operations Security (OPSEC) can make or break a combat operation. The lack of OPSEC bit the ATF assault force squarely on the ass. The first violation was to conduct a rehearsal at Fort Hood, Texas. Fort Hood is too close to the actual target site. Also, the rehearsal area was not carefully policed nor swept before the assault force departed the area.

The Dallas ATF office invited the media to the Branch Davidian compound, allowing reporters to tag along on the assault and remain in the target area. It was not until the FBI arrived on 29

February that the media was put under control and moved outside the target area.

The decision to base the ATF assault force out of Waco prior to the actual assault was totally obtuse. ATF might just as well have run a flag up telling everyone something was about to happen. Also, motel and restaurant employees have big ears. It would have been prudent to base out of Dallas/Fort Worth or even Austin instead of Waco. Waco was much too close to the target area.

Economy of force: The ATF apparently did not take into consideration this principle. The number of personnel involved in the assault force was adequate to storm the compound, had the leadership used different tactics, equipment and not violated basic tactical principles. With respect to *security* and *speed*, the ATF assault force ignored the principle of security and attempted to capitalize on the principle of speed in order to reach and take down the compound.

Of course, the selection of the time for the assault was another gross error in judgment (0900). Successful assault operations are conducted during the hours of darkness or a few minutes before first light.

Personnel within the compound and inside the two-story tower building dominated the entire area, providing excellent fields of fire outside the compound. The ATF were sitting ducks in open terrain with no cover. I am surprised that more agents were not killed and wounded.

I mentioned earlier the principle of *surprise*. This vital principle is normally strengthened and made workable through supportive deceptive measures. There was no deceptive plan in support of the assault force at the time the force conducted its attack on the compound. There are those who are surprised that the Secretary of the Treasury has not placed Higgins and his lieutenants on administrative leave pending the outcome of future investigations.

In summary, the terrible fire which destroyed the Branch Davidians' compound on 19 April would have never happened had the ATF served its warrants and not undertaken an assault which was far beyond the agency's scope.

Some folks are saying the ATF needs to go. They believe the ATF's current functions should be divided between the FBI and the Secret Service. I disagree with this concept and believe we need a viable ATF. On the other hand, I further believe that the current leadership in the ATF must go. The ATF is in serious need of strong, experienced and effective leadership to foster unity among all its agents and to totally reorganize training objectives and operating procedures throughout the entire agency.

Retired U.S. Army Colonel Charlie Beckwith is founder of America's elite Delta Force and a noted authority on raids and assault planning.✕



A BLUNDERING Inferno

Waco Standoff Ends In Disaster

by James L. Pate

Ranch Apocalypse burns on 19 April. Though Attorney General Janet Reno and President Clinton say concern for children inside prompted FBI's final assault, state investigators have never substantiated child abuse allegations — what real threat did armed cult pose to justify ATF attack? Photo: AP/Wide World

The federal government's 51-day siege of a Texas religious cult ended just like it began, with stupidity and senseless violence. Blame spread between fumbling federal agents and the doomsday Branch Davidians faster than the ravenous inferno which consumed Ranch Apocalypse on 19 April. The horrible pyre, visible 10 miles west in Waco, was also seen over the lunch hour on live television, riveting millions of Americans in ghastly disbelief.

Disbelief not only that it happened. Disbelief not only that our own government stood by helpless, doing nothing to *keep* it from happening, but disbelief that our "public servants," unwittingly or otherwise, provoked the outcome.

Loyalty to any government or religion must be based on faith and hope. However misplaced, the Branch Davidians had faith in their leader, David Koresh, and hope that they would triumph against what they saw as the forces of evil. The public watched in fascination for 51 days, most with faith that federal lawmen — or at least the FBI — would themselves abide by the laws they are sworn to uphold. The public hoped the FBI would do so competently, with fairness, compassion and common sense.

But, no. The millions watching on 19 April, both the religious and the patriotic, could not help but lose some of that faith and hope seeing 80-plus people, including about two-dozen children, burn to death. And then to hear President Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno lamely defend the federal action by saying it was undertaken out of concern for safety of those now-incinerated kids.

Cult leader David Koresh must share blame for not surrendering, promising his followers heaven and in the end delivering them into a fiery hell. But the federal government also has the blood of innocent people on its hands, including 17 children

M728 combat engineering vehicle punches holes with battering ram into flimsy wood structure of Branch Davidian compound, early morning 19 April. Feds maintain tear gas delivered inside by spray, not by explosive device. Surviving cult members claim fire started by armor tipping over lanterns.
Photo: Ron Heflin/Wide World



aged 10 years and younger, one of whom was found clutched in a woman's charred, withered arms. From start to finish, the Waco operation was a stupendous disaster, the worst in the history of U.S. federal law enforcement.

Well before fire trucks arrived, almost 40 minutes after the blaze erupted, the FBI's spin doctors in Washington were at work. First, flames still raging, they issued a statement blaming cult members for setting the fire. Minutes later, the FBI reported two survivors had confessed to setting the fire, a claim later refuted. Finally, the ashes still smoldering, the FBI agents said some cult members were shot by comrades to prevent their escape from the inferno.

Political Kindling

Washington liberals were quick to exploit the hideous deaths of innocents to stoke the flames of propaganda, blaming the disaster on the Second Amendment. "It will happen again unless we change our gun laws," bleated *The Washington Post's* columnist Richard Cohen.

It will happen again, Mr. Cohen, unless we change our government. Unless we compel its agents to abide by the letter and spirit of the Constitution, demand from them competence and common sense, and prosecute them for self-serving lies and bureaucratic tyranny.

Defenders of the bureaucratic faith argued that the defiant standoff had to be ended to assert the "sovereignty" of the federal government. The federal government has no sovereignty. The only sovereignty in this nation lies with "We the people of the United States," at least according to my last reading of the Constitution.

The fuse on the Waco disaster was lit by the knuckle-dragging pariah of pistol-packing feds, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (ATF). The ATF alleges a laundry list of legal violations by cult members, some over which the ATF even has jurisdiction. The main allegations involve illegal machine gun conversions. But nothing — *nothing* — anyone in the cult might have done comes even close to justifying what the government did to them.

On 28 February, the ATF bloodily botched what should have been a simple, low-key, search-and-arrest operation. Koresh had been successfully arrested in the past by county deputies using a little-known,

cost-efficient investigative tool: the telephone. But afflicted with a Gestapo mentality, the ATF prefers a heavy show of force. Like the old philosopher said, if the only tool you keep in your box is a hammer, all your problems tend to look like nails.

Hopes were somewhat buoyed when the siege was taken over by the FBI, which has a wider array of tools — and a higher bureaucratic IQ — at its disposal than ATF. Its supposedly high-speed Hostage Rescue Team came on 1 March backed by psychiatrists, psycholinguists and expert talkers. The FBI promised almost daily to end the standoff peacefully.

But, like shamed sinners staggering up the sawdusted aisles of a hot summer camp meeting, both the ATF and the FBI got suckered down a trip-wired trail of doom, clumsily fulfilling the awful prophecy of a megalomaniacal ninth-grade dropout.

Authority Gone Awry

Waco's final outcome was not an isolated incident, as so many would prefer to believe, but a tragic, haunting echo of the repeated violent excesses and incompetence of federal law enforcement, especially the ATF. Provocative and violent tactics are becoming disturbingly, dangerously common.

Only eight months earlier, the feds bloodily fulfilled another prophecy of apocalyptic doom, that of Randy Weaver, in another shaky case shoddily slapped together by ATF. Fatalities in Idaho included a deputy federal marshal, a 14-year-old boy shot in the back by another fed and also Weaver's wife. With a babe in arms and two daughters beside her, Vicki Weaver was mistakenly shot in the head by an FBI sniper who failed twice in a row from 200 yards to correctly engage his targets.

The tragedies of Waco and Idaho will be repeated. The proof — and the bloody toll — of law enforcement's failure to learn from mistakes lies within the pages of recent history: two FBI agents and two Indians dead in a 70-day siege at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, in 1973; six members of the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA) dead in a gun battle with the FBI and an ensuing fire in 1974; 11 members of a group called MOVE, including several children, burned to death in 1985 after Philadelphia police dropped explosives from a helicopter that ultimately burned the homes of 61 other families.

At the outset in Waco, with a failure of disastrous proportions already at its feet, the ATF stated that its two main goals were to resolve the standoff without further loss of life and to prevent a mass suicide. After numerous references by federal agents about a possible mass suicide of cult members and multiple news reports documenting the repeated warnings by ex-cult members of such a possibility, FBI Director William Sessions claimed after the fire that "none of us expected them to commit suicide ..."



Despite their botched 28 February assault on Ranch Apocalypse that left fellow agents dead and wounded, ATF remained on scene seven long weeks after FBI assumed control of standoff. Gestapo-like show of force did not prevent two cult sympathizers from infiltrating compound, but did hamper media and gun-rights activists. Photo: David Longstreath/Wide World

In Waco, the ATF's hey-diddle-diddle, right-up-the-middle leadership wasted the lives of four valiant young agents and numerous cult members. Another 16 agents — possibly 17, according to government documents released just before the fire — and an unknown number of people inside were wounded. Some agents were wounded by friendly fire, numerous sources insist.

The FBI suffered no casualties while watching Koresh and his followers burn to death. One agent heroically rescued a woman who stumbled ablaze from the raging wreckage, a demolition begun at dawn with the battering of the compound by specially modified armored vehicles.

The reason for the FBI's abject failure in Waco is simple. Agents gave up and made a conscious decision to stop negotiation, which under the circumstances could only lead to one result: violence.

"We're not negotiating," said FBI spokesman Bob Ricks at a 1030 press conference. "We're saying come out ... this matter is over." And two hours later, it was.

Questions Of Conscience

Ricks and others had described the use of armored vehicles as "defensive only." But even in the doublespeak of Big Brother, it is an impossible semantic stretch to define as "defensive" the use of a tank to knock down a building, a process which, according to survivors, trapped most of the women and children on the second floor. Cult members sent several signals during the final hours to indicate they wanted to resume negotiations, *The New York Times* reported in its 26 April edition.

"If Rodney King's civil rights were

violated, what happened in Waco?" posed Paul Craig Roberts, a columnist for *The Washington Times*. "If a billy club is excessive force, what is a tank?"

Indeed. Not even during the deadly Kent State University anti-war riot or the Los Angeles riots did the federal government send tanks against its own citizens — yet it used such force in Waco, against people repeatedly characterized as mentally ill. What type of attitude toward basic human rights does that portray to the rest of the world? Many watching were reminded of Soviet armor rolling through the streets of Budapest and Prague.

Perhaps we should expect government book burnings next. In its search warrant application for Ranch Apocalypse, the ATF indicated not only its inclination to abolish the Second Amendment, but perhaps an idea that the First Amendment ought to go as well. It noted the presence in the compound of "*Shotgun News* and other related clandestine magazines," (no, *SOF* was not mentioned) plus "a videotape ... made by the Gun Owners Association," which the warrant complained "portrayed the ATF as an agency who violated the rights of gun owners by threats and lies."

Oh, horrors! Fortunately for the *Gun Owners of America*, truth is an absolute defense against any libel action.

Possibly most disturbing of all the atrocities to come out of Waco was the open-armed acceptance by many citizens of what happened. Big Brother is here, and we embrace him. We have met the enemy, and it is us.

In Koresh's mind, at least, he and his people became martyrs in his deluded,

messianic cause. Koresh thought he was God — or the son of God — at least one of God's few *really* close personal friends. Koresh, as they say down in Texas, "won't awl thar." When Uncle Sam was finished, no matter what evidence of guilt — or lack of it — might have been found inside Ranch Apocalypse — Koresh was, as one wag noted, "D.R.T. — Dead Right Thar."

Gallows Humor

Apparently the feds didn't know that, in Texas at least, "it's not against the law to impersonate Jesus," according to *The Houston Post's* columnist Lynn Ashby, "Tom Landry got away with it for years."

It's not against the law to be crazy, either. Ashby wrote: "If every crazed person in Texas was locked up, we would have to put a fence around the Pan-

handle. What's more, it would end the Texas Legislature as we know it ..."

If humor like that seems a tad too jaded for a tragedy of this proportion, it's typical for what set the slow pace in the 51-day siege. Federal spokesmen, especially the FBI agent in charge, Jeffrey Jamar, repeatedly cracked jokes about Koresh's sanity and his religious fervor, knowing he could be watching on television. The press joked back. Everyone laughed.

Like the Rev. Jim Jones and the garden party he threw for 900 of his followers in Guyana in 1978, the final tragedy in Waco was so immense, so awful, so absurd, that the mind rejected it. Some of us had to laugh. To think about Waco's serious implications is too frightening. Gallows humor, to be sure. The "We Ain't Coming Out" chestnut of the siege was transmogrified by the fire into "What A Cook-Out!"

Not all the wackos were in Waco. Even before the siege was underway, this episode was affecting people strangely.

Out in Los Angeles (where else?) 31-year-old Jeff Terrell and a buddy caught a buzz and decided on 2 March to drive to Waco. The duo was headed east on Interstate 10 at about 2030 when the friend, in a moment of semi-sober reflection, decided to turn back.

Suddenly suspecting his companion was an FBI agent, Terrell began ranting and raving. When the frightened driver pulled over, Terrell leaped from the van and began smashing house windows in the quiet San Bernardino County community of Upland. Fay Thacker, 65, was watching news about the cult standoff when the

long-haired Terrell, dressed in a black leather jacket and black gloves, crashed through her living room window, screaming, "I'm Jesus, I'm Jesus! Take me to Waco! Take me to Waco!"

If that wasn't enough to set the tone for the insanity about to unfold, then came George Roden, the bearded, barrel-chested former cult leader from whom Koresh had wrested control of Ranch Apocalypse in a 1987 gunfight. Roden, of late being held in an insane asylum, called a press conference to say David Koresh is crazy. You know, takes one to know one.

This was typical of the surreal atmosphere surrounding the entire Waco standoff. Two days before it began, the unthinkable had happened. Terrorists bombed the biggest office building in New York City. Then, as the Waco siege dragged on, an Ohio prison riot claimed almost a dozen lives. One almost expected evening news broadcasts to have the Standoff of the Week.

No less crazy was the ATF's decision to storm a compound full of innocent children, which it knew was heavily defended. ATF leaders also knew they had lost the element of surprise — a fatal flaw agents now publicly acknowledge.

Documented Malfeasance

In a sworn affidavit filed 18 April, ATF Agent Earl Dunagan stated that ATF Agent Robert Rodriguez, in an undercover guise that had failed to fool cult members, was with Koresh two hours before the Sunday raid, when Koresh was informed of ATF's intentions. Corroborating the accounts of cult members who surrendered during the standoff, Dunagan's affidavit said Rodriguez was present when Koresh "exclaimed that the ATF and National Guard were coming to get him ... Shortly thereafter, the undercover agent left," Dunagan stated.

According to ATF agents assigned to the raid and anonymously interviewed by *The New York Times*, officials commanding the raid ignored Rodriguez's advice to call it off. While controlling the mission from helicopters above the compound, these same ATF commanders — Ted Royster and Phil Chojnacki — ordered unwitting agents on the ground to move in without advising them that their aircraft had already taken fire from cult members. Surviving Branch Davidians say the battle began when the compound was fired on from above without warning.

That was no less callous nor stupid, though, than the FBI's lack of preparation for the possibility of a fire. Agents had long before cut off water and electricity to the compound, a ramshackle, wooden-frame building dating from the 1940s. After battering Ranch Apocalypse for hours with armor and pumping in tear gas, flames and smoke appeared just after 1200 local time. Yet the FBI waited at least 10 minutes before an agent dialed 911 to request that fire trucks be sent "to the checkpoints

... It's a pretty good fire. The entire compound is going up right now."

The McLennan County Sheriff's Department's 911 dispatcher relayed that call to a fire station. This conversation indicated equally casual concern:

Dispatcher: "Sheriff's office dispatch."

Fireman: "Yes."

Dispatcher: "Is this Hawthorne?"

Fireman: "Yeah, it is."

Dispatcher: "They've got a fire at the compound."

Fireman: "Tell me!"

Dispatcher: "Are y'all en route?"

Fireman: "No, we're looking at it. Just waitin' for you to call."

Dispatcher: "Okay. Take off then."

Two pumpers arrived at the checkpoint by 1222, but were held there under FBI



Ruins of Ranch Apocalypse; though independent arson investigators stated on 26 April that cult members set fires, SOF source maintains feds regularly use pyrotechnic tear gas canisters obtained from military for assault purposes. For ATF, blaze quashed any questions on evidence — or lack thereof. Photo: AP/Wide World

order for 16 minutes. FBI spokesmen defended the slow response, noting Branch Davidians had fired on the tanks and thus might endanger firemen. But agents failed to explain why fire trucks were not at least on standby in the vicinity or why some of the combat engineering vehicles weren't rigged to spray fire extinguishing foam, one of many roles they are designed for. Probably the same reason 100 ATF agents assaulted Ranch Apocalypse without remembering to have ambulances handy.

Attorney General Janet Reno, who had not yet been appointed when the Waco siege began, displayed more testicular fortitude than Clinton. She accepted unqualified responsibility for the decision to

press the cult, acknowledging "it was obviously wrong."

Boy Clinton, meanwhile, was not exactly conciliatory: "I do not think the United States government is responsible for the fact that a bunch of fanatics decided to kill themselves ... We know that David Koresh had sex with children. I think that is undisputed, is it not? ... Where I come from, that qualifies as child abuse."

While Koresh's penchant for pubescent girls was widely alleged, those allegations "could not be verified," according to a Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services statement. FBI Director William Sessions had already acknowledged such allegations were dated and were never strong enough for the state of Texas to consider charges. Even if true, such crimes are not within the jurisdiction of the ATF or the FBI. The matter may be the least of the federal government's problems before the book is closed on the Waco disaster.

Smoldering Secrets

Questions of possible criminal culpability by federal authorities persist. Reno said that before approving the plan she asked more questions about the potential lethality of the tear gas to be used — especially its potential to start a fire — than about any other single issue.

The feds, supposedly so concerned about the welfare of the cult's children, knew that only the adults had gas masks available. Yet they went ahead with the plan, based around a tear-gas generator/sprayer mounted on an M728 combat engineering vehicle, its gun tube replaced by a battering ram. Its use, said the feds, was "defensive only."

But one federal law-enforcement source well-known to *Soldier Of Fortune* contacted us while flames still raged.

"The FBI strikes again," the source observed, incredulous at what he was watching on television. "I've taught their sniper teams. I've taught their SWAT teams ... I'm flat here to tell you, every time they really want to hurt somebody, they use tear gas. They use pyrotechnic burning devices. They do it intentionally. I've been there when they did it."

What about the FBI sniper who said he looked through a spotting scope at a compound window and saw a cult member in a black suit spreading flammable liquid and then setting it afire? "What do you expect them to say?" asked the source, noting how federal lawmen get pyrotechnic tear gas canisters from the military, "and they use it when they want to because it burns. ..."

Several news reports referred to additional tear gas "canisters," all of which were pyrotechnic, being inserted into the compound after it became clear those inside would not surrender. The fire has solved, at least for ATF, a lot of poten-

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Foreign Forces Can Afford Experiments In Social Engineering — United States Cannot

by James Brantley



Dutch department of defense booklet tells enlistees it's OK to be gay, officially. And military doctors, psychiatrists — even priests — in Holland are required to complete courses to help gays come out of the wall-locker.

Proponents of allowing homosexuals in the U.S. military point out that homosexuals are allowed in most of the armies of Western Europe, Israel and some other nations. This argument is fallacious, because it is predicated on the mere presence of homosexuals, rather than a determination of the success of their integration.

Western European military forces that allow homosexuals aren't comparable to the U.S. military, either in size, mission, history or conditions of service. The United States has kept around

2 million men under arms, while many European militaries have less than 100,000 men each. The United States has a voluntary military with a four-year enlistment, while men in Western European countries are drafted for about a year. The United States has relatively good discipline, while armies in some countries such as the Netherlands are fast slipping the reins of traditional military discipline. Conscripts there are highly paid and belong to a draftees union. Troops don't have to salute, have loose dress regulations and are paid for overtime.

The United States has a worldwide military mission, European armies do not. During the period that the policies regarding homosexuals were put in place, none of these nations could rely on their own armed forces to protect them from the Warsaw Pact. They relied on the U.S. armed forces for their national survival. Perhaps that's why they felt they had more freedom to toy with the social makeup of their armed forces.

The social conditions and laws regarding homosexuality are vastly different in some European countries from anything you would find in the United States. Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands have been pioneers in radical social legislation, allowing people to do anything within reason. These countries have specific civil rights laws that guarantee equal rights for homosexuals in all areas of society. Thus, the armed forces of these five countries have no choice about letting homosexuals into their ranks. The United States has no similar national civil rights law that prevents discrimination by sexual preference.

Marriage In The Barracks

In Denmark, homosexual troops can marry each other. This started in 1989 when Denmark passed a law allowing homosexual marriages. Since then, one out of five marriages in Denmark has been between homosexuals. At this writing, a proposal to allow homosexual marriages is before the parliament of Norway, and is expected to pass. Homosexuals in Belgium, Sweden and the Netherlands are fighting for the right to marry also. Homosexuals in Sweden already fall under the same laws as single heterosexuals who cohabit. If homosexuals are allowed in the U.S. military, what happens if they are assigned to a NATO unit in one of these

countries and decide to either marry a local same-sex citizen or one of their own buddies?

Social and military differences aside, perhaps an argument using one of these countries as an example could gain some validity if homosexuals had been truly integrated, and were accepted by troops who are products of these very liberal societies. But evidence indicates that they are *not* accepted. If severe punishments are indicators of severe problems, Norway and Denmark must be finding it impossible to successfully integrate homosexuals: In Norway, soldiers who threaten, scorn, or spite homosexual soldiers are subject to stiff fines and up to two years in jail. In Denmark, harassing a homosexual will get you booted out of the military.

The Netherlands allowed homosexuals in its military forces almost two decades ago, but still hasn't convinced its soldiers to accept them. But it's not from lack of trying. The Netherlands has a very aggressive indoctrination program that tries to convince heterosexual troops that homosexuals are OK and persuade homosexuals to come out of the closet. All soldiers attend four days of sensitivity training and doctors, psychiatrists and priests are given training to help homosexual troops come out of the closet. The troops are even given a fancy booklet on the acceptability of homosexuality in the military (see photos).

Have the troops bought the message? A Dutch navy report released in 1991 indicates they haven't. The report states that Dutch sailors and marines consider homosexuals to be inferior, and that there is widespread discrimination, verbal abuse, and some physical assaults against openly homosexual personnel. The report indicates that most homosexuals stay in the closet so they will be accepted by their peers, and not hurt their chances for promotions or choice assignments.

Five out of nine other Western European nations officially allow homosexuals into their military forces. These are Germany, France, Spain, Portugal and Switzerland. The French and German armed forces use every loophole possible to keep homosexuals out, or to get them out once they are in. In France, homosexuals who can show that homosexuality has rendered them "psychologically abnormal," or unable to control their sexual urges can be exempted from the draft. This excuse is routinely used and approved. Anyone already in the French military who is discovered to be homosexual is referred to a doctor for examination, and his commander recommends that he resign. But he can't be forced to resign.

Bundeswehr Buddies

Homosexuals can avoid being drafted into the German military by testifying that they wouldn't be able to control their sexual urges, or request alternative mandatory service. Although there is no official regulation, recruits discovered to be homosexual are routinely discharged. Discrimination against openly homosexual career officers and NCOs isn't a matter of individual spite, but official policy. The *Bundeswehr* withholds their promotions and limits their assignments because it says "homosexuals cannot command adequate respect." The Swiss allow homosexuals to serve but forbid what they call "homosexual cliques." The Spanish officially consider sexuality a private matter, but unofficially consider homosexuality unmanly and a disgrace. Open homosexuality can end an officer's career.

Israel is used as a shining example of the successful integration of open homosexuals into an elite, combat-tested military force. But when we look at Israel, all we see is another dead end. Homosexuals have only been allowed in Israeli forces since 1988, and the military has formal authority to limit their use. Recruits who proclaim their homosexuality, or soldiers later found to be homosexual, must undergo psychological testing to determine if they can be accepted, or remain in the military. Those that are allowed to stay aren't given jobs that require a top security clearance, and are rarely assigned to combat units. Openly homosexual soldiers are not allowed to live in the barracks with other soldiers, but are generally assigned to an open base where they can go home at night.

Dr. Charles Moskos, a military sociologist at Northwestern University, has recently finished a study of homosexuality in

Israel. Moskos says that "Israel is a homophobic society that treats homosexuals like women."

Israel may sound rough, but homosexual acts will land you in a jail cell anywhere else in the Middle East. If you happen to be in Saudi Arabia, the punishment is execution. England, Greece, Turkey, New Zealand, Peru, Venezuela, Korea, India, Pakistan and all former Warsaw Pact countries still ban homosexuals from their military services. In Italy, homosexuals are exempt from the draft. Many strongly conservative countries like China and Japan consider homosexuality such a mark of dishonor that they are puzzled why anyone would even want to ask the question of a new recruit.

Chicken In Eagle Feathers

It's obvious that there isn't a single example where the integration of a substantial number of open homosexuals into the military of any nation has met with success. The key word is "open." Many thousands of homosexuals have been successful in their military careers. But this success — both in the U.S. military



Brothers-in-Arms: Dutch defense department pamphlet teaches sensitivity toward gays in uniform, shows young man greeting his boyfriend in Amsterdam's Schiphol airport.

and in foreign forces - has been a function of their success in maintaining a masquerade as a heterosexual. Homosexuality becomes a disruptive factor only when a homosexual soldier insists on making his orientation known.

When you declare your status, you're describing your behavior. What foreign countries have experienced in this regard is becoming clear in the case of Keith Meinhold, the only court-approved open homosexual in the U.S. military. In a sworn court deposition, Meinhold's commander stated that "Meinhold's reinstatement had struck a discordant note with the troops," and that "some personnel have refused to fly with Meinhold, forcing the Navy to rework their schedules." When this deposition started circulating through Congress, Rep. Patricia Schroeder was outraged. Apparently she has a problem with the truth when it doesn't fit her political slogans.

The strategy of the homosexual rights movement is clear. Once the military has been forced to accept homosexuals, it will provide a powerful precedent for the use of federal power to attempt to coerce the acceptance of homosexuals in every corner of American society. However, a presidential fiat will not gain

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More than 60 million rifles and machine guns chambered for the intermediate-sized 7.62x39mm cartridge have been manufactured. Untold billions of rounds in this caliber have been produced and expended on the battlefields of every war in every corner of the globe for more than four decades. It is currently, without doubt, the world's most ubiquitous military small-arms cartridge. Yet until Bill Ruger served up his "Mini Thirty" in 1987, no U.S. manufacturer had ever fielded a rifle chambered for the Kalashnikov cartridge.

Soldier Of Fortune sources insist the Mini Thirty is the semiauto spin-off of a stainless-steel, selective-fire, caliber 7.62x39mm Mini-14 developed for, and tested by, the U.S. Navy SEALs. Ruger officials deny this, but the rumor persists. Be that as it may, the Mini Thirty is an intriguing piece of hardware.

Marketed only in what Ruger refers to as their "Ranch Rifle" configuration in the Mini-14 series (first introduced in 1973), the Mini Thirty attracts a diverse segment of the gun-buying public. Weighing 7.2 pounds, empty, and with an overall length of just about 37.25 inches, it's compact enough to qualify as a true carbine. *SOF* recently completed a thorough test and evaluation of the stainless steel version of this rifle (Catalog No. KMINI-THIRTY — a "K" prefix in the Ruger product line indicates stainless steel construction).

The method of gas operation is that of the Mini-14 — the so-called Ruger fixed-piston/moving-cylinder system — with only some minor dimensional modifications. Firing is from the closed-bolt position. There is no adjustable regulator.

After ignition, some of the gas following the bullet down the

Ruger KMini Thirty with U.S. Optics Model SN-4 Rapid Response scope shot to 2 MOA when provided with .308-inch-diameter bullets. Even with 7.62x39mm military ball ammunition, it is substantially more accurate than most Kalashnikovs.



RUGER'S RUSSIAN RANCH RIFLE

Mini Thirty: Superior Accuracy, Low-Cost AK Loads

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis



Both 20-round (left) and 30-round magazines made by U.S.A. Magazines provide Ruger Mini Thirty with significantly more firepower than standard five-round magazine provided (far right) and are essential for most law enforcement applications.

bore is diverted through a port drilled radially in the barrel, about 8.5 inches from the muzzle, into the gas-block assembly and through a stationary piston, to strike against the hollow interior face at the front end of the massive slide, to which has been robot-welded the operating rod. What would conventionally be referred to as the gas cylinder or "tube" is thus housed within the front portion of the slide.

As the operating rod (which resembles that of the M1 Garand and M14 and is welded to the slide) moves to the rear in recoil, the cam-path milled into its hump, just in front of the retracting handle, lifts up the bolt's right locking lug, rotating the bolt to the left and out of the two locking recesses on either side of the mill-finished, investment-cast receiver. The roller, added to the M14's right locking lug, has been replaced by an integral round knob. An M14-type extractor has been attached to the right side of the bolt's head. There is no need to spring-load the firing pin, as a retraction cam in the receiver holds the striker to the rear until locking has been completed.

Both recoil spring and guide rod ride in the slide's hollow interior at the rear. The guide rod's chisel-shaped tip fits into a buffer bushing, which pivots on a cross-pin attached to two lugs on the bottom of the receiver. This buffer absorbs the shock of the slide block as it strikes the receiver at the end of its recoil stroke.

A four-component, bolt-lock mechanism has been installed on the receiver's left side. After the last shot has been fired, the magazine follower pushes the bolt lock (which also serves as an ejector) upward to engage the left locking lug and prevent the bolt from moving forward. The device can also be activated without a magazine in place by retracting the bolt and depressing the bolt-lock plunger protruding from the top of the receiver. When a loaded magazine has been inserted, the cocking handle must be retracted slightly to relieve the bolt's pressure and permit the mechanism's coil spring to pivot the bolt lock downward. I prefer the far simpler hold-open mechanism found on the M14.

The Ruger Mini Thirty is equipped with a five-round, detachable, staggered box-type

magazine with plastic follower and floorplate that fits flush into the magazine-well (and is not interchangeable with the .223 Mini-14 magazine). That's great for cowboys, but some of us would like a little more firepower.

U.S.A. Magazines (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 39115, Downey, CA 90241; phone: 800-872-2577) provides American-made, high-quality, expanded-capacity magazines for a wide range of semiautomatic handguns and rifles. They offer 10-, 20-, 30- and 55-round magazines for the Mini Thirty in either stainless steel (glass bead-blasted), blued or nicked finishes. We were provided with stainless steel versions of their 20-round (\$52.50) and 30-round (\$58.25) magazines. Blued and nicked versions are substantially less expensive. They fit snugly, operate reliably and are fully warranted. Several law enforcement agencies, such as the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, use these magazines with their Mini Thirty rifles.

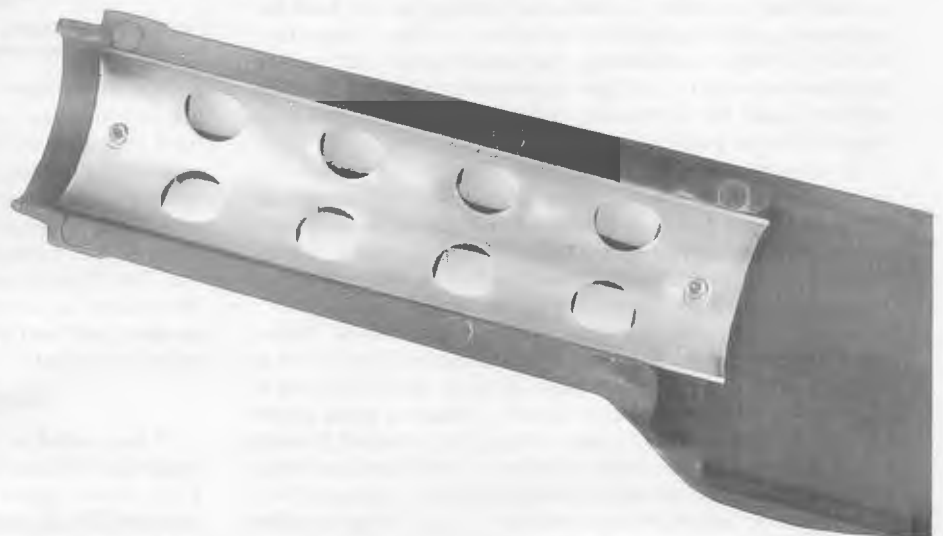
Top-Notch Trigger

The entire trigger mechanism has been taken from the M1 Garand. Nothing wrong with that — it's one of the best ever designed. A hammer with two hooks, a trigger with an extension that serves as the main sear, and a spring-loaded secondary sear directly to the rear remain the major components. When cocked, the hammer is held back by the sear on the trigger. After the trigger is pulled, this main sear moves off the hammer notch and the hammer rotates up and forward, driven by its coil spring. Ruger uses music-wire coil springs throughout the Mini Thirty and has eliminated the M14's steel-spring housing in the trigger mechanism.

When the bolt moves back and pivots the hammer down, it's caught by the secondary sear. After the trigger is released, the secondary sear moves out of engagement with the hammer. As the hammer starts forward, it's caught once more by the main sear and held until the trigger is pulled again. Trigger pull weight on SOF's test specimen was a crunchy 6.5 pounds.

The safety lever is of the M1 Garand/M14 type, except that instead of passing through the front of the trigger guard, it's mounted just to the left. Push forward to disengage. When en-

Ruger Mini Thirty's handguard is held to barrel by spring clip. Fabricated from thick black fiberglass, an aluminum heat shield has been riveted to its underside in area of eight ventilation ports.





Ruger Mini Thirty trigger mechanism has been taken from the M1 Garand: Hammer with two hooks, trigger with an extension serving as main sear and the spring-loaded secondary sear directly to the rear remain major components.

gaged, it blocks the main sear and prevents the trigger from being pulled rearward. The reciprocating parts can be manually cycled with the safety on.

Attached to the trigger housing by a solid steel pin, the paddle-type magazine catch/release must be pressed forward to release the magazine. Loaded magazines must be tilted forward and rolled back when inserted into the magazine-well — a difficult maneuver with the five-round magazine.

Barrel length is 18.5 inches. The barrel and all other stainless steel components are made from ordnance-quality, heat-treated, 700-series stainless steel. It has six grooves and a right-hand twist of one turn in 10 inches. The groove diameter is .3085-inch. This permits reloaders to use readily available .308-inch bullets and yet is close enough to the .310- to .311-inch nominal diameter of 7.62x39mm arsenal ball projectiles to avoid excessive pressures.

Any blued-steel parts, such as the rear sight assembly, are manufactured from ordnance-grade, heat-treated, chrome-moly steel alloy.

Investment-Cast Strength

Sturm, Ruger & Company Inc. (Dept. SOF, 200 Ruger Road, Prescott, AZ 86301; phone: 602-778-6555) is the world's established leader in cost-effective investment casting. Developed at its Pine Tree Castings Division in New Hampshire, Ruger's metallurgical processes are without equal.

Strength-wise, modern investment-cast components are every bit as good as, and in many instances better than, forgings — and far less labor intensive. In addition, castings do not have the lengthwise grain structure that sometimes induces longitudinal cracking in forged components. Far fewer machine and gaging operations are required to finish an investment casting. By these methods Ruger has continually placed rugged and dependable firearms into the public's hands at reasonable cost.

A substantial number of the Mini Thirty's components are investment castings. These include the receiver, bolt, gas block, floorplate/trigger guard, operating rod and numerous small parts such as the trigger and safety lever. The firing pin, extractor, screws, retaining pins, molded magazine assembly, music-wire coil springs and buttstock metal components are not investment castings.

All of this slips smartly into a walnut-stained Maine Yellow Birch one-piece stock. The stock is reinforced with steel liners in stressed and high-temperature areas. A black plastic buttplate is attached with two wood screws. A swivel under the stock and on the gas block will accept 1-inch slings. The standard Mini-14 handguard is held to the barrel by a spring clip. Fabricated from thick, black fiberglass, an aluminum heat shield has been riveted to its underside in the area of the eight ventilation ports. During rapid-fire sequences it still becomes too hot to handle, but unlike the early Mini-14 wood handguards, it will at least not burst into flames.

The front sight, an unprotected, non-adjustable serrated blade,

RUGER KMINI THIRTY SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	7.62x39mm.
Operation:	Gas. No regulator. Stationary piston. Gas impinges upon slide/operating rod. Locking by means of rotary two-lug bolt. Semiautomatic fire only from the closed-bolt position.
Feed:	Five-round detachable, staggered, box-type magazine. 10-, 20-, 30- and 55-round stainless steel, blued or nicked magazines available from U.S.A. Magazines.
Weight, empty: ...	7.2 pounds.
Length, overall: ..	37.25 inches.
Barrel:	Six-groove with a right-hand twist of one turn in 10 inches and a groove diameter of .3085 inches.
Barrel length:	18.5 inches.
Sights:	Serrated blade-type front without protection; non-adjustable. Folding-leaf rear peep aperture; adjustable for windage, but no gradations or index markings; adjustable for elevation with index mark and five unspecified gradations. Integral scope bases; Ruger S100RH 1-inch-high rings supplied.
Finish:	Stainless steel.
Furniture:	Walnut-stained Maine Yellow Birch stock with black plastic buttplate. Black glass-fiber handguard with aluminum heat shield. 1-inch sling swivels.
Price:	\$580 (blued model \$530) complete with one five-round magazine and 1-inch scope rings.
Manufacturer:	Sturm, Ruger & Company Inc., Dept. SOF, 200 Ruger Road, Prescott, AZ 86301; phone: 602-778-6555; fax: 602-778-6633.
T&E Summary:	Sturdy and reliable. Compact, with excellent handling characteristics. Accuracy potential superior to the Kalashnikov series. Retracted firing pin permits safe use of reloaded ammunition. Best accuracy with .308-inch-diameter bullets. Inexpensive military ball available.



Ruger KMini Thirty, disassembled.

is fixed to the barrel by a roll pin. A really crude, folding-leaf, peep-aperture rear sight has been attached to the receiver by a fixed dovetail at the rear and a dovetailed plate in front that can be loosened by backing off its allen-head retaining screw to permit windage adjustments. There is no index mark for lateral adjustments and the Ruger manual suggests you use a pencil for this purpose! A hex wrench is required, and provided, for this operation. You'll need a small screwdriver to loosen the peep aperture for elevation adjustments. There's a single white index line on the aperture itself and five un-designated white marks on the rear-sight folding leaf.

Superb Sight Surrogate

If you intend to use iron sights on this rifle, I suggest you install the Williams WGRS-Mini-14/30 peep-aperture rear sight, which was designed for the entire Ruger Ranch Rifle series. It costs but \$29.95 and slides easily into the receiver's dovetails. For further information on this sight, contact the Williams Gun

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RAPID RESPONSE SCOPE

While any rifle can benefit from an optical sight, the Ruger KMini Thirty is neither a long-range sniping system nor a high-plains antelope rifle. Any scope with magnification greater than four-power would be mismatched to this carbine and, in fact, most of the time a lower magnification would be more desirable. A rifle of this type requires optics that will not restrict the operator's field of view when facing dangerous moving targets. For that purpose, it has been demonstrated that 1X-power to no more than 2X provides the best results. Furthermore, we need a reticle pattern that promotes rapid target acquisition, not hair-splitting at 1,000 yards.

United States Optics Technologies Inc. (Dept. SOF, 1501 E. Chapman Ave., No. 306, Fullerton, CA 92631; phone: 714-879-8922; fax: 714-449-0941) manufactures entirely in the United States a scope that meets these specifications, and then some.

Called the Model SN-4 Rapid Response, this MilSpec 1X-to-4X variable is the world's first non-variable center of impact, front-reticle-variable power scope. That's a confusing mouthful and what it means is this: The reticle pattern — a dot in a circle — is similar to that found on the Steyr AUG police model and the Swarovski (makers of the AUG scope) Cobra scope. It is non-breakable and etched (not wire as most others) on the objective lens (two massive pieces of sandwiched glass).

As the SN-4's power knob is turned up to 4X, the dot in the circle becomes a long-range precision aiming point. When turned down to 1X, the dot fades into the background of the circle. The reticle thus becomes either a large, fast aiming dot at the higher magnifications or a small aiming circle at the lower magnifications. Target size can be determined at any range or magnification as the dot subtends 3 inches at any power or range, while the outer diameter of the circle subtends 4 feet and the inner diameter subtends 3 feet. As the size of the reticle compared to the target stays the same at any power and only the field of view changes, the accuracy and point of impact remain constant.

This 10-element system employs a 35mm ocular lens and a 20mm objective lens. All lenses are made from high-refraction, multicoated BK-7 optical glass. At 100 yards, the field of view is 31.2 feet with 4X magnification. That field of view is maintained at 1X magnification at a distance of 115 feet. This is a wider field of view than provided by most of the high-quality European scopes. With an overall length of 9.45 inches and a maximum diameter of 1.89 inches, the SN-4 weighs 13.75 ounces.

The main tube, fabricated from 6061 T6 aluminum alloy and hard-anodized either black, olive drab or silver (clear), has a 30mm diameter. Why? Most U.S. scopes are housed in 1-inch tubes. A 30mm tube with an 1/8-inch wall thickness still has almost 30% more cross-sectional area inside the tube than most 1-inch tubes with their much thinner walls. Once this additional area is available, the erector tube inside the scope body (which carries all lenses except the ocular and objective lenses) and its lenses can be increased in size to gather more light and thus yield greater resolution and a brighter image. Furthermore, this heavy 30mm housing is more shock-resistant than any 1-inch tube.

Eye relief, an often neglected parameter in scope evaluations, is long and forgiving at 3.35 inches to 4.33 inches (85mm to 110mm).

Parallax occurs when the primary image of an objective lens does not coincide with the reticle. It has been set at the U.S. Optics factory for a target at 100 yards. Any distance can be specified by the user and the Model SN-4 can be returned for this readjustment. In an emergency it can be adjusted by the user: Warm the glue holding the front-end cover bezel and unscrew it. Then turn the entire lens housing in (for farther ranges) or out (for closer ranges) — one or two turns is sufficient — to focus and set the parallax for any range.

Move your head up and down and sideways while the scope is resting on a shooting bench and pointing toward a target posted at the range you wish to set the parallax for. If the target and reticle appear to move in relation to each other, rotate the lens housing until this phenomenon disappears.

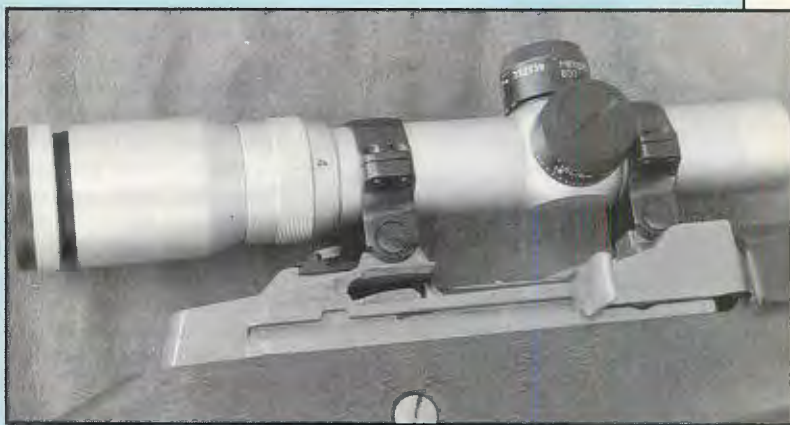
The scope submitted to us for test and evaluation was

equipped with a "Bullet Drop Compensator" (BDC). After the scope has been adjusted for elevation zero at 100 yards, simply turning the elevation knob to the known target distance (out to 600 yards) will place the round at the point of aim, provided the projectile and charge weight for which trajectory the compensator has been calibrated are employed (in this instance standard 7.62x39mm military ball with a steel-cored, boat-tail bullet).

The tops of the knobs are beveled to inhibit accidental rotation during removal from a case or drag bag. Elevation and windage zero are obtained by unscrewing the knob covers with a coin and turning the adjustment screws with a coin in the appropriate directions. Each audible click (optional 1-, 1/2- or 1/4-minute of travel) of either adjustment screw will move the point of impact (up or down, right or left) 1-, 1/2- or 1/4-inch at 100 yards, respectively. Some users desire coarser adjustments at shorter ranges for combat scopes, especially with cartridges like the 5.56x45mm NATO — U.S. Optics can provide any of its scope models to match any specifications a user requires.

There are, for example, other knob options. The large, oversized, so-called "ergonomic" knobs, presently so fashionable in Marine Corps sniping circles, are available with the BDC knob system or with a 1/4-minute external knob system. A standard 1/4-minute-click adjustable system with screw-on caps that require no coins for adjustment is also available.

In addition, a large number of reticle patterns are offered with further options for user-designed reticle systems as well. Other accessories include screw-on lens caps, sun shades, shock-resistant shrouds, fitted wooden cases and lit reticle modules. A standard Model SN-4 Rapid Response scope with



U.S. Optics Model SN-4 Rapid Response scope, a milspec 1X-to-4X variable, has reticle pattern — dot in a circle — similar to Steyr AUG police model. It provides user with exceptionally fast target acquisition without restricting field of view — essential qualities for combat optics.

either a .223-inch or .308-inch BDC elevation knob costs only \$505. That's well under a barely equivalent Zeiss, Swarovski, Kahles or Hensoldt.

All U.S. Optics scopes include a limited lifetime warranty with a no-charge service policy, provided repairs have not been attempted by anyone else.

To mount this scope with its 30mm body diameter on the Ruger Mini Thirty, we resorted to two sets of Ruger 30mm rings (available blued-only) for the Ruger M77 bolt-action rifle, from which we selected the two low rings.

When set to the lower-power magnifications, the SN-4 provides the user with exceptionally fast target acquisition without restricting the field of view — essential qualities for combat optics. Priced lower than their closest competition, incredibly shock-resistant (I'm mounting one on a caliber .505 Gibbs dangerous game rifle) with superb resolution and image brightness, the SN-4 stands poised to take the scope industry by storm, while repelling all boarders and taking no prisoners.

— P. G. K.

BALKANS ARE ANOTHER VIETNAM

Clinton Must Not Write Checks Young Men Pay With Their Lives

by Colonel David Hackworth

The people fighting the Balkans war in the former Yugoslavia are as mean as junkyard dogs and as unstable as a six-pack of nitroglycerin. They are experts at killing one another; they have been doing so with a vengeance for almost 1,000 years. These people invented the term "slash and burn," and I wouldn't be surprised if they gave birth to the word "genocide." From my experience, they're the meanest mothers in Death Valley.

The first time I had a slug snap over my head was in 1946. The gunner was a Yugoslavian ("Jug") soldier in Tito's Red Army. I was a recruit in an 88th Infantry "Blue Devil" Division recon unit (D Company, 752nd Tank Battalion). The Jugs, in the first hostile move of the Cold War, wanted to take the Italian city of Trieste and it was the Blue Devils' job to stop them. The first KIA of the Cold War was Private First Class Robert Shinn, killed in a Jug ambush on an 88th Division patrol.

Over the next four years I served with an elite unit called TRUST (Trieste, United States Troops), made up from elements of the crack Blue Devil Division. We were deployed on the Italian/Jug border. There would be many more U.S. casualties from frequent skirmishes between Jugs and TRUST troopers, as this killing went on until 1954.

On 16 September 1947, a Jug regiment tried to bully its way through our defensive positions. Lieutenant William Och, a

West Pointer, bluffed the Jug's colonel with less than a squad of grunts, causing the Jug regiment to do an about-face without a shot being fired.

Those were hot and dangerous days. It got so bad that President Harry Truman issued an ultimatum of war after the Jugs shot down a C-47: Return U.S. dead or get nuked.

Sadly, the soldiers who stood tall and held their ground on the Morgan Line were never recognized in America's first forgotten war. They remain unsung warriors — none were awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge or even given a piece of ribbon. Under today's Pentagon medal giveaway program, they would all have worn more fruit salad than Douglas MacArthur for their service along those troubled borders.

I've returned to Jugland several times since my 1946-50 tour in Trieste. The last time was a 30-day visit for *Newsweek* in September as a war correspondent. While interviewing the Croatian chief of staff, General Anton Tus, I mentioned my Trieste experience. He jumped up, grabbed a tactical map, pointed a big finger at Trieste and boomed, "Where was your unit?"

It turned out his regiment had faced mine. He gave me a backbreaking bear hug, then exclaimed, "Wait, you couldn't have been old enough!" I said I was 15. He cracked my back again and roared, "I was 14!" We were brothers, even though

During World War II, Tito's guerrilla forces clobbered Nazi units composed of more than 700,000 combat troops ... The German army, never slackers as soldiers, could not put the Jugs down, though they killed tens of thousands trying.



Photo: Robert K. Brown



Photo: Van Der Stock/Gamma Liaison

The Jug gunners had no regard for non-military structures or just plain non-uniform-wearing people. Their rule seemed to be: If it moves or stands still, it's a target — shoot to kill.

almost 50 years before we'd have proudly ventilated each other's bodies with anything from an ice pick to an atomic bomb.

Balkan Barbarians

The Jug soldier on the former Yugoslavia's killing fields today — Bosnian, Croat or Serb — remains a ruthless and violent son of a bitch. He's not a regular soldier, more an undisciplined rogue: part bandit, part fanatic, part drunk and mostly brutal savage. Plum brandy is his drink; by high noon many of these animals — especially the Serbs and Croats — are shit-faced and take great delight in lighting up someone or some village with

the nearest weapon, from an AK-47 to a 120mm rocket, whichever is on hand.

I had not seen such blistering use of fire since the Korean War. Desert Storm was like a Boy Scout jamboree compared to these daily fire storms. Nor have I ever witnessed such indiscriminate use of fire. The Jug gunners had no regard for non-military structures or just plain non-uniform-wearing people. Their rule seemed to be: If it moves or stands still, it's a target — shoot to kill. Throughout all areas I visited, mortar and sniper fire rained down randomly without reason, mutilating and destroying homes, factories and civilians.

A Croat brigade aid station I visited was well-marked with a number of red crosses. As soon as I got there, an artillery round smacked down next door, killing an old man. Mortar fire, artillery rockets and passes by Serb MiG-21 fighters struck in and near the aid station for two days. When I left, every wall was slashed and punctured by shrapnel. The field ambulances looked like they had been downrange at a shooting gallery.

Reckless use of aircraft, shelling, rocket fire and demolitions flattened blocks of civilian homes throughout this once-picturesque land. The fire is basically used as terrorism against the population. Madmen blowing up things just for the hell of it and to drive the people out. Amidst the brutal slaughter, rules of conventional war don't exist.

One night I slept in the cellar of a shell-wracked hovel near the center of the Croatian city of Bosanski Brod. The horror of war was everywhere. Buildings were blown, battered and blackened with walls crumbled by rocket and shell. Cars were flattened like squashed beer cans. Telephone and power poles were uprooted; windows shattered, roofs collapsed. Nothing escaped the madness of violence that brother, neighbor and former friend ravaged on each other during their killing, exploding and burning frenzy.

Plum-laden and abundant gardens were the sole exception. These were off-limits, as antipersonnel mines had been recklessly strewn everywhere. A day didn't pass while I was there without the terror of mines exploding, taking the life of an adventurous child or an overeager returnee cleaning up the carnage of war.

Canadian Courage

I spent a week with November Company of the elite Royal Canadian Regiment in Pakrac, Croatia. They were on U.N. peacemaking/peacekeeping duty, but were more like targets in their blue pots than anything else. Every one of their M113 APCs bore scars from bullets and shell fragments. They'd been mortared, sniped at, mined and ambushed.

The Canadians' job was to tame the Wild West, disarm the lawless cowboys and herd them to their respective U.N.-assigned turf. This they did with a lot of guts and poker player's bluff. They set up roadblocks and observation posts, patrolled and, step by careful step, tried to separate Serbian Hatfields from Croatian McCoys, disarming an often-drunk rabble of ill-disciplined militia gangs posing as soldiers.

"For the first few months, we weren't peacekeepers," Sergeant Bill Crawford said. "We were the only law in town. We were the peacemakers and it was a seven-day week, 24-hour days, fraught with danger." All agreed the Balkans are a patchwork of explosive ethnic hatred, with no two sectors alike.



Photo: Van Der Stockt/Gamma Liaison

A Serb leader in Bosnia told me, "If we have to, we will go to the mountains and stay there for 50 years. We will never give in." A U.S. counter-guerrilla force would be caught up in a nightmare of ambushes, mortar and sniper attacks.

Lieutenant Kevin Cameron's platoon had been manning a roadblock on the Serbian side of the line, whiling away time listening to the music and propaganda of Radio Croatia's "Zagreb Zelta" when a drunken Serb soldier thrust his weapon in Cameron's face, saying, "If you no shut off, I kill you." Cameron slammed in a tape of Guns & Roses, turned up the "ghetto blaster" and offered the drunk a smoke to the beat of Axl Rose at his wildest.

Young men like 22-year-old Cameron daily face such life-and-death situations. Like shrinks, they cool off madmen with hot tempers and turn ugly mind-sets. A drunk Croatian soldier accidentally sent a burst of submachine-gun fire into Cameron's APC, wounding Corporal Lloyd Rudolph. Cameron disarmed the drunk, patched up and evacuated Rudolph, then went on keeping the peace. This took great discipline and Clint Eastwood cool. Had Cameron reacted differently — perhaps normally — it could have turned a nasty situation back to World War II. This is a big burden for young men to carry. They know the key is not in shooting, but in being the only cop on the beat and getting the violence wound down.

There were few fixed front lines. In most places the battle area was like a check-board with the reds and blacks intermixed. To a regular soldier, nothing makes sense. In fighting style and shape, it's not World War II front-line conventional, nor Desert Storm swift air-land battle, nor guerrilla irregular. Fire is not placed on military targets to support maneuvers so trained men can gain ground. It's not fire and movement, nor trench warfare where

both sides hunker down and lob explosive devices at each other's breastworks while trying to hold a piece of dirt that's critical to overall strategy. It's simply indiscriminate violence and mindless slaughter.

Guerrillas' Choice

One day I was talking to a Moslem Bosnian commander over a coffee in his rose-filled garden veranda. Suddenly, Serbian 82mm mortar rounds crunched in. The CO and his staff calmly set down their cups and moved with practiced, ballet-like grace behind stout trees and walls.

The terrain in Bosnia, where heavy fighting has occurred, is an ambusher's dream. Mainly mountainous, its roads and trails snake through heavily timbered country where every bend in the path is an infantry school-solution ambush site. This rugged locale is perfectly suited for a rag-tag force fighting more like guerrillas than regulars.

During World War II, Tito's guerrilla forces clobbered Nazi units composed of more than 700,000 combat troops. One in seven Nazi soldiers (mainly Croats fighting under the Nazi flag who surpassed Germans in the atrocity department) was wounded or killed by Tito's forces. The German army, never slackers as soldiers, could not put the Jugs down, though they killed tens of thousands trying. After the war Tito formed a tough, tank-strong conventional army from his units, but much training time remained devoted to guerrilla warfare.

Bosnians, Croats and Serbs are estimated to include more than 500,000 men and women under arms in their three-way civil war. The force ratio of conventional

troops to guerrillas needed in this type of terrain would be more than 10-to-1. If outsiders were to intervene, a huge army would be needed to hunt down the guerrillas; they'd be harder to track and nastier than the Viet Cong.

A Serb leader in Bosnia told me: "If we have to, we will go to the mountains and stay there for 50 years. We will never give in." A U.S. counter-guerrilla force would be caught up in a nightmare of ambushes, mortar and sniper attacks. Body bags would come home as from Vietnam, week after inconclusive week, until the American people said, "Enough."

Most commanders (read: warlords and gang leaders) on all sides are not trained at war, while those in the ranks are more Rambo-mobs than soldiers. There are few take-charge leaders. Orders are given at the top, but often ignored down at the bottom. This, in part, explains the war's chaotic nature and why cease-fires never hold. There is simply no order or discipline.

During dozens of interviews with Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian commanders, I asked, "What is your military objective?" None knew. A coach without a game plan doesn't win many games. The brass has a warped idea that the more violence they toss at each other, the quicker they'll win.

Three Of A Kind

On the material side, Serbia has the military edge. Its soldiers are tougher and meaner and, of the three combatants, it is by far the main aggressor. Have no doubt the Serbs started this war and they're the major evil, *hombre*. But all three sides are bad news; each has chalked up its share of atrocities, rapes and ethnic cleansings.

Serbs have the bigger army and the most guns and tanks, as their depots are filled with leftovers from the Yugoslavian national army. The Bosnians are a light-infantry scratch force who want heavy weapons but wouldn't know what to do after they got them. They talk a good fighting game, but ain't much in the doing.

The Croats are a mixed bag. Some of their leaders were trained in the Yugoslavian army and they're good. But many, like their soldiers, have little stomach for fighting — when the going gets rough, they walk. I observed their basic training, which is not Marine-mean: Part of the schedule called for dancing.

When I was in Sarajevo with the United Nations' French marine regiment, I observed a Serb squad digging up a Moslem grave. Its marker said the dude had been dead 50 years. I figured the Serbs were looking for a cache of Moslem weapons. When they reached what was left of the casket, the squad ceremoniously lined up around the hole and pissed in unison on the coffin, then each proceeded to fire a couple magazines of AK-47 slugs into the grave. "Why?" I asked their leader.

He replied that "this Moslem had been a butcher of Serbian women" during World War II. Talk about hate! These cats carry grudges that go back to ancient times. Those long-ago brutalities, including the Holocaust-like slaughter between Croats and Serbs during World War II along with what has occurred since Yugoslavia exploded in flames in 1991, are what fuel this war and make it almost impossible to put out.

It's a strange war. A Serbian commander and former taxi driver said, "We don't want this war." Replied his Moslem counterpart, a former architect now located only a few hundred shell-cratered meters away across no-man's-land, "We too have a desire for peace." No sooner were those words out of his mouth than a barrage of mortar fire rained down from the Serb position I had left less than 30 minutes before.

When the Serbian CO was notified that the U.N. element I traveled with was catching his shot, he asked the French captain (whose U.N. job it was to stick by the Serb's side and try to keep a lid on the firing), "Why didn't you tell me the U.N. was going there? We'd have never fired."

Before the war, the two groups played soccer against one another. I asked if they would play again — the Moslem replied, "Why not?" Ironically, both opposing COs wore insignia of the French marines, their U.N. referees, on exactly the same jacket pocket.

Visiting another Moslem unit commander later, I noticed a group of militia fighters gathered around a television in his bunker intently watching a midday Mozart concert. *What cultured people*, I thought. As I walked out of the bunker, a woman sniper on top of the position fired and killed an old woman 800 meters away. So much for culture!

During a visit to a Serb unit, an old man of perhaps 80 years was gut-shot. His only weapon was a bucket of plums. He lay on a trail bleeding three hours before dying. No one could get near to patch him up because of a Moslem sniper. I asked the Serbian CO why the old man was shot. "Ask them," he replied.

Sniper fire pinned down a U.N.-escorted ambulance carrying wounded. The French marine regimental commander, Colonel Patrice Sarte (then in charge of U.N. airport security at Sarajevo), radioed his liaison officer to tell the responsible Serb commander that Sarte's rifle team had the sniper dead in their sights and if he didn't stop firing, he was a goner. The firing stopped and the ambulance moved out.

A few days later, Sarte sent word to the sniper's mother: *I had your son in the sights of my sharpshooters' rifles. I didn't shoot because you were in the village.* For two weeks after, there was no sniper fire from that village ... but then it started all over again in earnest. "It's a Mexican standoff. Every day people die for noth-

ing," observed Sarte's deputy commander, Lieutenant Colonel Erik de Stabenrath.

The only growth industry in Jugland is tending the dead. Cemeteries are filled. In the villages, dead are buried almost where they fall; they're flat running out of space.

Playing To Lose

The major lesson of Vietnam was not to get sucked into someone else's civil war. It's like jumping in the middle of a family fight. Both husband and wife will turn and beat the bejesus out of you; you cannot win and bring peace. The rule to follow is to stay out of any kind of family squabble, from man and wife to civil war.

Aside from this basic lesson, it is not our fight. America has no strategic interests in the Balkans and what happens there does not affect our security. The killing and ethnic cleansing are going on in Europe's backyard, yet Europeans do little. All nations of Western and Eastern Europe are downsizing their militaries while they look to the United States to come clean up their mess. We have been bailing them out of one jam after another since 1917 and it's about time they stood tall and took care of problems in their own region.

America is almost broke and *must* stop being the world's cop. Rich nations such as Germany, France and Italy must fetch their buckets and start bailing out their bloody

Balkans swamp. One reason they're reluctant to jump in is that Germany and Italy still remember years of fighting and losing against Jug guerrillas, while France still bears the scars of wars against guerrillas in Indochina and Algeria. They all want Uncle Sam to do the dirty work and pay the bill.

Getting involved in that Hatfield-and-McCoy, hate-filled feud with U.S. ground troops would be the dumbest thing American politicians could do. And believe me, our politicians have done some pretty whacky things during the past quarter-

century alone: Vietnam, Lebanon and Somalia are three examples of military missions that were insane, not doable and a waste of American lives and dollars.

We don't want to intervene in that swamp. If you thought Vietnam was a quagmire, the Balkan region is the delta of all swamps. Militarily it is not practical. We do not have the bases there to support operations, nor is our military machine large enough or properly trained for such operations. The military objective could not be obtained — there is no way we could win. Everything — the enemy, the terrain and the weather — is against a fast, clean-cut Desert Storm-like victory, which is the only kind of war to fight.

If we intervened, it would be a bloodbath lasting longer than the Wars of the Roses. The Vietnam War would seem a tropical paradise by comparison. Our own Black Wall from the Balkans war would stretch from California to New York.

No Swift U.S. Remedy

Many politicians, pundits and interest groups want the United Nations to lift the arms embargo from Bosnia and Croatia to even the mismatch held by a much stronger Serbia. What they don't understand is that guns, airplanes and tanks don't make an "instant" army. What makes modern armies are disciplined soldiers, crackerjack leaders, Hank Emerson-style generals and state-of-the-art hardware.

It takes years of hard work and good leadership to develop a strong military force and to learn how to work and coordinate the complicated fighting equipment. It also takes hard training, strong leadership, bright, motivated soldiers and a lot of sweat to hammer out cohesive units that click like professional football squads.

Another important and painful lesson of Vietnam was that hardware must come with U.S. trainers and advisers. If the embargo is lifted and gear provided, the United States will find itself inching into war and, as in Vietnam, sinking into the mud.

Taking sides in a three-way genocidal civil war where the United States has no



Photo: Robert K. Brown

During dozens of interviews with Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian commanders, I asked, "What is your military objective?" None knew. A coach without a game plan doesn't win many games.

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Editor's Note: On 20 March, two Indianapolis law firm partners were detained while working as members of the press near the Waco standoff scene. Linda Thompson and John Baird were held up and questioned some two hours at a roadblock by agents of the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (BATF). A constitutional law activist who specializes in Second Amendment issues, Thompson had earlier sought unsuccessfully to represent Branch Davidian cult leader David Koresh.

As "acting adjutant general" for a grassroots group called the Unorganized Militia of the United States of America, Thompson coordinated a national call for a 3 April demonstration and march in Waco for Second Amendment rights to include an "inspection" of weapons. Turnout was light due to short notice, with perhaps 100 or more supporters on hand. Yet Thompson notes hundreds have applauded the

Our AEN News press passes and driver's licenses were checked and passed at the first roadblock. The guards there, mostly state police, were nice and even posed for pictures. They trotted out the ATF bomb dog, a golden Labrador retriever that had a sign on his back — "ATF Agent." The dog was quite friendly.

We went down into the press area, a major bore. There was absolutely nothing going on except press RVs parked up and down the road and a few cameras on tripods taking pictures of every car coming out of the Branch Davidian compound area. One reporter who knew me walked up and said, "Oh, so we have legal counsel tonight." I told him I was there as a press member.

The reporter trotted over to police at the second roadblock and, like a teacher's pet at school, informed them I was an attorney. Soon thereafter, six more state troopers arrived. As we were driving out by the first roadblock three miles back up

Then he pointed [the MP5] back at us, so I thought maybe he was too stupid to realize he was moving it in our direction.

Then he stood and really pointed it at us, at which time I observantly remarked to John, "Shit! He's pointing that machine gun at us." Not being the brightest person in the world, I was absolutely astonished. Fear didn't enter my mind (too stupid/astonished ... whatever), but I was furious and wanted a picture for evidence. So, as he moved the gun again — not quite pointed at my head — I snapped a picture. As he ran around the car toward me, I rolled up my window and locked the door. He yelled that if I took another picture he'd break my camera.

The camera had an automatic rewind and it was rewinding its little wheels off. The guard couldn't see what I was doing because it was too dark inside the car. I got the film out and put it and two other rolls behind the glove box — not in it, but *behind* it.

INTIMIDATION FROM THE BARREL OF A GUN

Text & Photo
by Linda Thompson

ATF Strong-Arms Press in Waco

concept through phone calls, fax messages and letters. Identifying herself as chairwoman of the American Justice Federation, Thompson also claims accredited press status as a member of Associated Electronic Network (AEN) News.

Thompson's copyrighted column on legal issues regularly circulates through various computer networks. She states it was in this press role that she and Baird were detained and searched after visiting "Satellite City," the roadblock around which most news media representatives have flocked while covering the Waco siege. Thompson and Baird were accompanied by a third party, a man they had recently met who claimed to be an attorney interested in their efforts to help Koresh and his followers. Thompson states she now believes the man was a government snitch. Soldier Of Fortune has chosen not to use his name in this account of Thompson's detention, excerpted from her recent column.

the road, the same nice, friendly guards had turned surly.

Unlike other press, we were stopped and asked to show our press badges on the way out; they were snatched from our hands. We were asked to show driver's licenses and they took those, too. We overheard an officer say he was going to run our data through the National Crime Information Center. We were told to stay in the car until an FBI agent got there.

ATF Armed & Dangerous

I had two rolls of film in my purse and another in a small, Instamatic-type camera. I was looking for places to hide the film, figuring what was coming. I noticed my partner John Baird looking a little pale and looked out the window to see an ATF agent pointing an MP5 submachine gun with a flashlight mounted on it right at us (but never at the snitch in the back seat). At first I thought maybe it was accidental, because then he turned it away a little.

Shortly, the state policeman in charge came back and told us to step out and put our hands on the car. They searched the two guys ... but not me. Of all the people likely to be carrying ... well, never mind. Then we had to stand around in the 35-degree weather for another half-hour or so, waiting for the FBI to arrive.

After we got out of the car, the police started shining flashlights inside. An ATF agent went around to the passenger door and opened it. I repeatedly stated loudly that he did *not* have my permission to search the car. He picked my purse up off the floor and dumped it on the front seat. Then he got a camera from the back seat and opened it and took the film out. Our passenger repeatedly said, "That's the wrong camera, that's not the film" — our first indication he might be a snitch.

Then they found my camera, opened it and asked, "Where's the film?"

"There is none," I replied. By then each of us had cops on each side and

behind us. I asked the Texas trooper bringing up my rear if he had sworn an oath to uphold the Constitution. He crossed his arms, looked far away and nodded almost imperceptibly, so then I asked if he had ever read it. He didn't reply.

About two minutes later as I was putting a cigarette out on the ground, a state policeman pointed to it and loudly said, "You're littering in Texas!" (*Oh shit, big trouble now fer sure ...*). So I picked it up. I asked the nice policeman if his name was Officer Obie or if he'd ever been to Alice's Restaurant.

Old-Time Tent Meeting

Then we were told the FBI had arrived and to pull our car off to the side by a big tent. All this time we'd been quite a spectacle in the middle of the road. Remember, this was a press checkpoint and plenty of press vehicles had happened along ... and stopped. We now had lots of film rolling in our direction.

"They're going to question you one at a time," the state officer told us. "Who wants to go first?" I said I did.

The tent was off to the side of the roadblock. Inside it was warm; there were four metal chairs in a semicircle, like in first grade. A bunch of Texas state troopers came in, then three feds ambled in. The atmosphere was clearly one of "We're the big boys and we're gonna' show you local yokels how it's done." The state troopers were deadpan, but began smirking as things progressed.

I sat down and the feds took the other seats. First the agents stuck their identification and badges right in my face and said they were with the FBI (deep tone of voice for effect). Gee, was I ever intimidated (*Not!*).

I handed agent Callaghan an envelope with some legal papers I'd been trying to serve on the FBI's agent in charge of the operation, Jeffrey Jamar, who'd been avoiding us. We'd brought the papers along to the press area in case we got to see a real, live FBI agent — this was beyond our wildest hopes. Agent Callaghan looked at the papers and asked me, "Where'd you get this official seal?"

I patiently explained that the good clerks of the federal district court had been, in my experience, obsessive about putting official stamps and seals on legal proceedings and were most diligent about it whenever I had an occasion to file a *lawsuit* against somebody.

Agent Caballo, busily copying down information from my rent-a-car paperwork, my AEN press card and my driver's license, looked up and asked, "How come your driver's license number doesn't match the Avis paperwork?" I told him to ask Avis. He said my Avis paperwork was phony.

Then Callaghan piped up and said our press badges were faked. I said I was a member of a legitimate electronic news service. He wanted to know how I got the

badge. I said the same way that CBS, NBC and everybody else gets theirs. He asked where. I told him it was his job to find out. Then it dawned on me that it was time for ol' Doc Thompson's Constitutional Law/Search & Seizure 101 short course for these fellows.

I asked him if I was under arrest. Callaghan said no, that they just wanted to ask us some questions. (If you are not free to leave, you are under arrest; therefore if you are not under arrest, you are free to leave.) I referenced a few precedent-setting federal court decisions — *Miranda vs. Arizona*, *Edwards vs. Arizona*, *Mendenhall vs. United States*, *United States vs. Nachtigal* — and offered a few pointers on better understanding those opinions.

"We're not here to discuss the legalities of the situation," Callaghan said.

"That's been rather obvious from the beginning," I replied.

Then I launched into a tirade about the ATF screwing this whole case up from its very inception, with the FBI coming in to cover it up and that there were people like me who knew exactly what was going on. I told him America wasn't going to put up with this kind of crap any longer and that every one of them would be made to answer for their crimes. I was shaking my finger by then.

Callaghan sort of ducked a little and didn't say anything. I told him if I was not under arrest then I was free to go, but I wanted my property back. They gave it to me and I left.

Next they decided to question this other guy that had been with my partner and me. I followed him to the tent. A state trooper stopped me at the tent door and told me to wait in the car. I told them I was his attorney. They asked for proof. I pulled some membership cards for vari-



Jeff Cooper's Rule III is: "Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target." Obviously this ATF agent outside Waco is not even trained in such important rudimentary gun-handling skills, let alone the complex tactical choreography required of a SWAT-team dynamic entry.

ous bar associations out of my purse, fanned them out like a poker hand and told him to pick one. This interview was *much* shorter.

"Is this your attorney?"

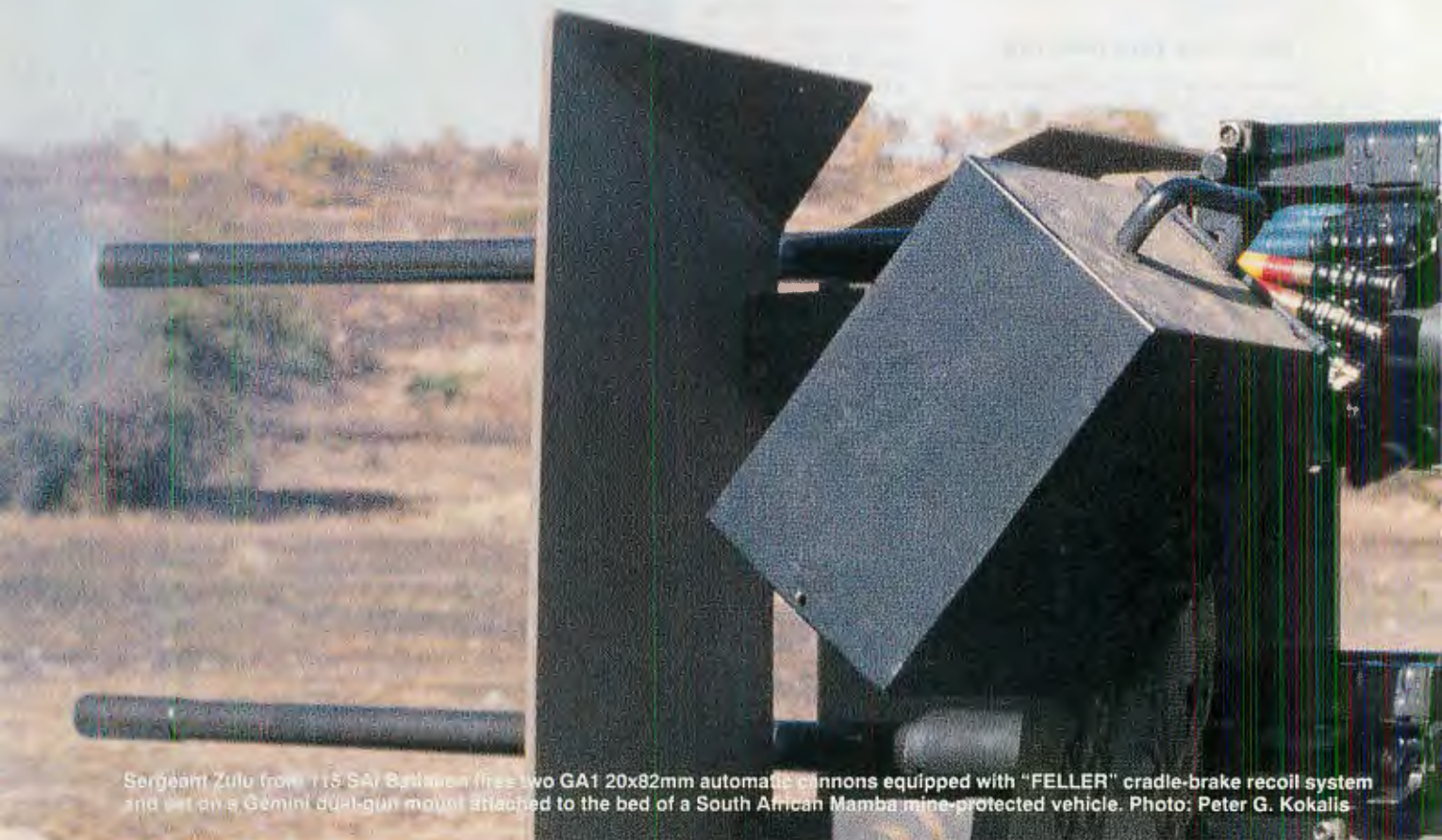
"Yes."

"Where'd you get this ID?"

"As your attorney, I'd advise you not

Continued on page 73

MA DEUCE'S



Sergeant Zulu from 115 SA Battalion fires two GA1 20x82mm automatic cannons equipped with "FELLER" cradle-brake recoil system and Gemini dual-gun mount attached to the bed of a South African Mamba mine-protected vehicle. Photo: Peter G. Kokalis.

The boundary between heavy machine guns (HMGs) and automatic cannon (not artillery) is tenuous and sometimes arbitrary. In fact we must look to their ammunition types to find valid distinctions. A case in point is the South African GA1 (Gun A1) 20x82mm automatic cannon.

The GA1 is a vastly improved and updated version of the German MG 151/20 aircraft cannon, which was designed in 1934 as a 15mm weapon but was scaled up to 20mm during World War II at the request of the Luftwaffe. The MG 151/20 was also adopted by the Japanese and used as a "flexible" gun in bombers. Subsequent to World War II it was employed by the French air force.

Re-engineered and produced by LIW (Dept. SOF, 368 Selborne Ave., Lyttelton, P.O. Box 7710, Pretoria 0001, Republic of South Africa; phone: 27-12-620-2103; fax: 27-12-620-2407), I have personally witnessed the GA1 — mounted on the Casspir

Mk 2 Mine Protected Vehicle (MPV) — employed with deadly effect by *Koekoet* (a police counterinsurgency unit) in the former South-West Africa (now Namibia) on the border with Angola.

Its salient features are the simplicity of its design, which provides for ease of maintenance and cleaning, its compactness and a relatively light weight. With the barrel, but without a mount, the GA1 weighs only 39 kilograms (approx. 86 pounds), empty. This compares with 84 pounds for the .50 caliber Browning M2 HB machine gun and with 106.5 pounds for the caliber 12.7x108mm Russian Degtyarev Pekhotny (DP) Model 38/46 heavy machine gun.

Overall length of the GA1 is 1.77 meters (69.7 inches). Ma Deuce is approximately 65 inches in overall length, while the DP 38/46 measures only 62.5 inches in length. Width of the GA1 receiver assembly (measured over the trunnions) is 124mm (about 5 inches), or 240mm (about 9.6 inches) when measured over the feeder baseplate.

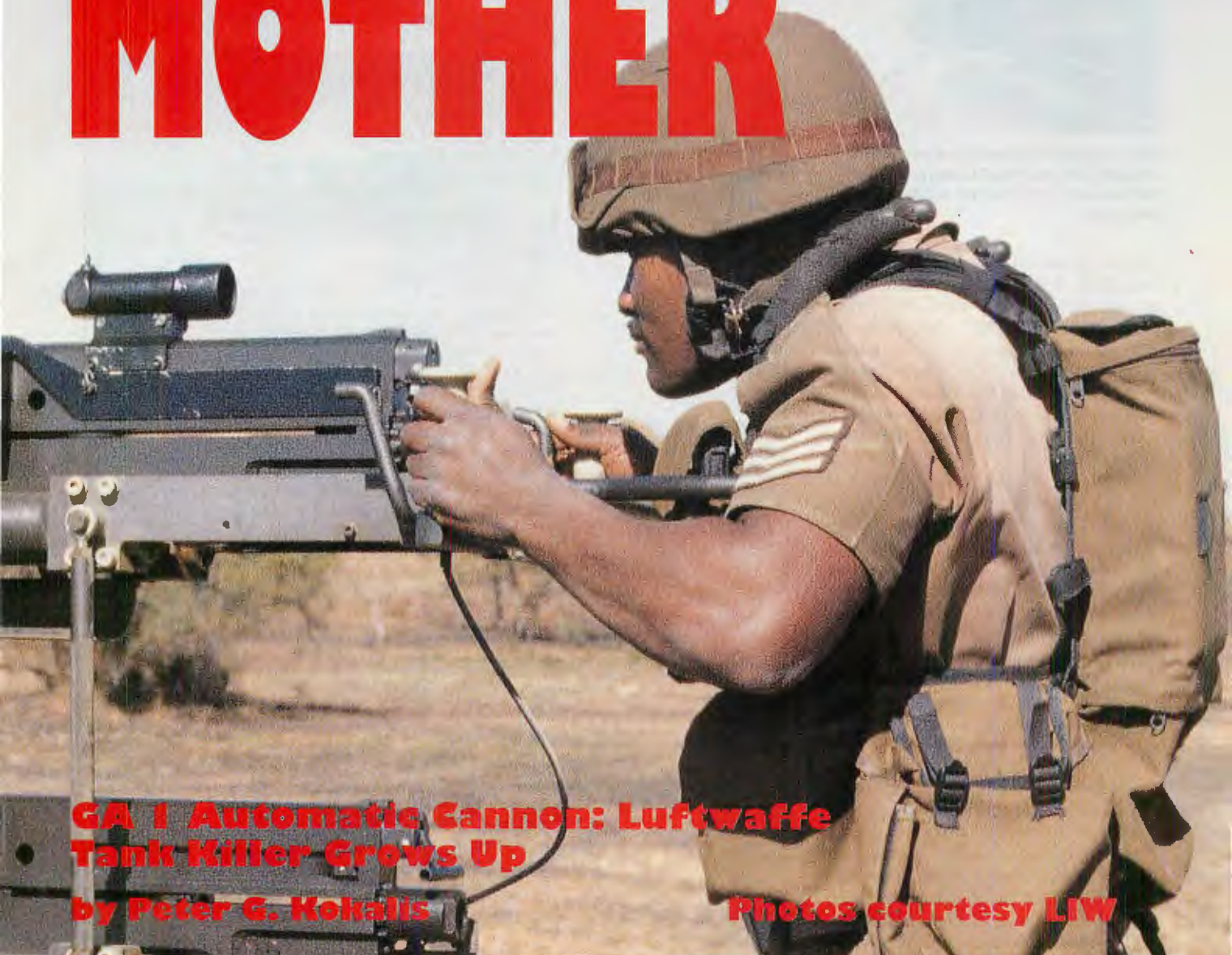
The height of the receiver is 195mm (about 7.8 inches).

The GA1's eight-groove barrel has a right-hand twist of one turn in 22 inches (550mm) — slow in comparison with small arms such as infantry rifles, but appropriate for this caliber and projectile weight. It is 1,104mm (44.16 inches) in length, which is slightly less than that of the .50 caliber Browning M2 HB (45 inches).

Staying On Target

Two sight systems are available. The Gennet reflex gunsight, which includes a bracket and baseplate, is employed in helicopter applications by the South African Defense Force (SADF) and can also be attached to the Gemini double-gun mount. This optical-type sight employs a prism that projects cross hairs onto the viewing lens. While primarily a day-vision system, it can also be either electrically or beta-illuminated. It is adjustable for the height of the operator.

MOTHER



GA 1 Automatic Cannon: Luftwaffe Tank Killer Grows Up

by Peter G. Kokalis

Photos courtesy LIW

Less expensive and more commonly used for ground applications is the Armson O.E.G. (Occluded Eye Gunsight), developed in South Africa. It's called a "binocular" sight because both eyes must be employed in its use. One eye is blocked (occluded) by the aiming device, while the other eye continues to view the target. Only those with binocular vision can utilize sights of this type. Individuals with manifest ocular-muscle imbalances ("cross-eyes") must stay with iron sights or scopes.

In use, the GA1 is moved onto the target area with the operator's head directly behind the Armson O.E.G., which is mounted over the receiver by means of a black-anodized aluminum bracket. Both eyes remain open and focused, at all times, on the target only. A red dot, composed of 160 millicuries of tritium, appears immediately in sharp focus on the target. It takes some getting used to, as many have spent years shooting with only the master

eye, but once mastered the Armson offers exceptionally fast target acquisition on both static and moving multiple targets. In addition, a significant amount of peripheral vision is maintained — a life-and-death consideration during a firefight.

The Armson has no batteries to change. Its radio-luminous tritium lamp will last up to 10 years before the cell must be replaced. Construction is to military specifications throughout. The sight's body is machined from a solid extruded bar of heat-treated, aircraft-grade, octagonal-shaped aluminum alloy and then anodized. The double-coated lens system is encased in shock-resistant rubber. The light collector is acrylic. It's surrounded by a lens of unbreakable polycarbonate — identical to the material used on the face shields of Apollo astronauts' space helmets. The result is a rugged, drop-resistant piece of hardware that will withstand all the abuse encountered on a battlefield.

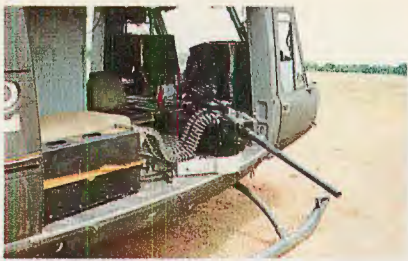
With an overall length of only 5.25

inches and weighing only about 5 ounces, the Armson O.E.G. presents a compact, lightweight package. It is provided with windage and elevation adjustment knobs for zero to the weapon and operator. The adjustment knobs are notched and each click will move the point of impact 25mm at 100 meters. Zeroing the sight can be a somewhat frustrating experience for those accustomed to precise benchrest methods. When stared at for long periods, the red dot will often disappear from eye fatigue. Blinking will cause the dot to reappear. Firing swiftly, immediately after target acquisition, is the secret to successful alignment of the O.E.G. gunsight.

This Cradle Will Rock 'N' Roll

In South-West Africa, the GA1 was usually deployed on Casspir MPVs without any sights. Gunners would visually "walk" the bursts onto the target using High Explosive Incendiary Tracer (HEIT) rounds.

To permit installation on naval pedes-



GA1 20x82mm automatic cannon is in service with the SADF in several roles — shown here mounted on a Bell 212 helicopter.

tal deck mounts, lightweight vehicles and helicopters, the GA1 is equipped with a unique external recoil mechanism called the "LIW" or "FELLER" cradle-brake recoil system. The cradle assembly consists of two housings, each of which contains both recoil and brake mechanisms, a handle with two grips, an electrical harness and, sometimes, the Gennet gunsight with its bracket.

The recoil mechanisms, comprised of a shaft and spring-tension washers, control the GA1's recoil and provide run-up for the gun (After the gun reaches the end of the recoil travel, the washers release their compressed strain energy to drive the gun forward.). The brake mechanisms, which each consist of a shaft and tension spring, serve as buffers and prevent a forward- and rearward-rocking motion when the GA1 is fired. The electrical harness carries a current to the push-button trigger, located in the right-hand grip on the handle. The handle also has a safety knob.

Another factor in controlling the GA1's recoil impulse is its cartridge. With a length of only 83.52mm (but referred to as the 20x82mm round), its semi-rimmed, percussion-primed steel case is noticeably shorter than either the .50-caliber Browning (99mm) or the Soviet 12.7mm (108mm).

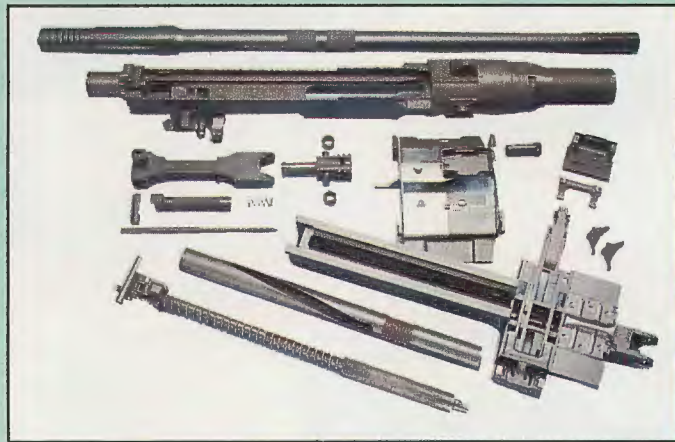
The principal distinction between heavy machine guns and automatic cannon lies in the area of their ammunition. From the above we can see that there is often little difference between their cases. Propellants and charge weights also differ very little. The primer caps on ammunition designed for automatic cannons may be of either the percussion or electrical types.

The greatest difference between heavy machine gun and cannon ammunition is in their respective projectile types. Most cannon projectiles are shells, i.e., hollow projectiles which contain explosive material that is initiated by an impact fuze at the target or at some earlier point during the trajectory by a time-delay mechanism.

Most heavy machine-gun projectiles are of the solid-ball type with lead or steel cores, which sometimes have hollowed-out areas at the base or nose that contain tracer or incendiary elements respectively. The distinction between heavy machine gun and cannon ammunition is somewhat blurred by an early Soviet 12.7x108mm anti-aircraft round with a projectile that

GA1 20x82mm CANNON SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	Semi-Rimmed 20x82mm.
Operation:	Roller-locked, short recoil with a cradle-brake recoil system. Fully automatic with firing from the open-bolt position.
Cyclic rate:	650 to 750 rpm.
Feed mechanism:	Belt-fed with push-through, disintegrating steel links. Either right- or left-hand feed; changeover requires only replacement of the recoil sleeve and reversal of several small components.
Weight, with barrel:	Approx. 86 pounds (39 kg).
Overall length:	69.7 inches (1.77 meters).
Height (receiver):	7.8 inches (195mm).
Width (receiver):	9.6 inches (240mm), measured over the feeder base plate; 5 inches (124mm), measured over the trunions.
Barrel:	Eight-groove with a right-hand twist of one turn in 22 inches (550mm).
Barrel length:	1,104mm (44.16 inches).
Sights:	Armson Occluded Eye Gunsight or Gennet Reflex Gunsight.
Interfaces:	Aircraft gun pods, helicopter mounts and platforms, hand-operated combination mounts, dual mounts, ring gear and adjustable tripods.
Manufacturer:	LIW, Dept. SOF, 368 Selborne Ave., Lyttelton, P.O. Box 7710, Pretoria 0001, Republic of South Africa; phone: 27-12-620-2103; fax: 27-12-620-2407.
Status:	In service with SADF and the armed forces of several other countries.
T&E Summary:	Weight and envelope compare favorably with heavy machine guns; hit probability exceeds that of the Browning .50 cal. M2 HB; HE ammunition provides a higher level of performance against enemy personnel, especially in dense brush, than any HMG ever fielded; robust and reliable; battle-proven in World War II and South-West Africa; highly recommended as an antipersonnel weapon.



South African GA1 20x82mm automatic cannon — disassembled.

contained both high explosive and incendiary composition and by the more recent Norwegian .50 caliber, multi-purpose Raufoss ammunition whose bullet is

filled with a hard core and a loading of RDX explosive.

South African 20x82mm ammunition is available in five types: nose-fuzed High



GA1 20x82mm automatic cannon in an internal hand-control mount on the highly regarded South African Casspir Mine-Protected Vehicle.

GA-35 RAPID-FIRE CANNON

While the compact GA1 20mm automatic cannon is ideal for infantry and helicopter deployment against enemy personnel, light vehicles and bunkers, cannon of significantly larger caliber provide superior ballistic dispersion, increased projectile range and kill probability, along with the capability of engaging targets much earlier. These characteristics formulate the optimum solution for modern short- and medium-range air defense systems.

LIW has developed an entirely new concept of 35mm rapid-fire cannon. The GA-35 is a fully automatic, gas-operated, belt-fed weapon. It has a nominal firing rate of 550 rpm, an effective range of 4,000 meters and exceptional accuracy. Firing is from the open-bolt position. It has been designed to effectively counter the threat presented by high-speed weapons systems with long-range ordnance (i.e., helicopters flying nap-of-the-earth, low-flying aircraft and missiles). Its effectiveness against armor has been maximized through the use of newly developed ammunition. The GA-35 can fire all standard NATO and South African 35x228mm ammunition. Linked ammunition is fed by either a single or double feeder system, via fixed or flexible ammunition chutes.

It has been designed for minimum maintenance and maximum reliability, even under the most adverse environmental conditions. There are less than 200 working parts. Removal and disassembly of the major components is possible within approximately two minutes without using any tools.

Some of the more significant attributes of the GA-35 are its exceptionally low recoil force (for this caliber of weapon) as it is floating in a cradle, its short recoil distance and its heavy barrel, which contributes to better accuracy and longer barrel life by increasing heat dissipation.

Full-Tilt Firepower

The gas-operated breech mechanism and independent gas-operated ammunition feed insure a consistent rate of fire not affected by belt load. Ammunition is fed through the feed chutes by a feed sprocket to the cartridge stop. The feeder mechanism remains unaffected by the cannon's recoil movement. When using a dual feeder, changeover takes no more than one second.

When the trigger mechanism is actuated, the bolt moves forward, strips a cartridge from its link in the feed sprocket and rams the cartridge into the chamber. At the same time, the locking levers rigidly lock the bolt to the receiver before the firing pin strikes the primer and the shot is fired.

Subsequent to firing, the bolt is reactivated by the gas pistons for another automatic cycle. The ammunition feeder is activated simultaneously with unlocking of the bolt assembly. Shortly before the bolt group impacts against the buffer, the ejector levers the empty case over the extractor and out of the cannon. The bolt group then strikes the buffer, releases its energy and returns to strip another cartridge from its link. After releasing the trigger, the bolt is stopped and rigidly locked shortly after leaving the buffer.

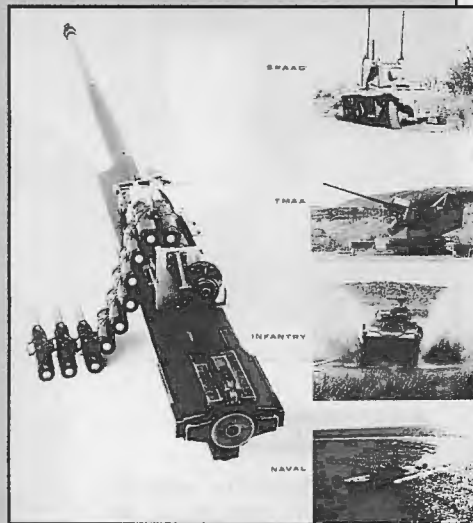
While the method of operation approximates that of many infantry rifles, the components are, of course, much larger and the forces much greater. Weight of the GA-35, complete, is about 960 pounds (435 kg). The barrel alone weighs approximately 338 pounds (153 kg). Total length of the weapon is about 14.5 feet (4,346mm).

In addition to its obvious applications in air defense, in either self-propelled antiaircraft gun (SPAAG) or trailer-mounted antiaircraft gun (TMAAG) configurations, the GA-35 can be used with armor-piercing ammunition as vehicle armament, or in a naval role, because of corrosion-resistant construction and high rate of fire.

From 9mm pistols through 155mm self-propelled artillery and the full range of weapons in between, LIW is, without doubt, one of the world's leading forces in the technology of modern military armaments.

— P. G. K.

GA-35 35x228mm rapid-fire cannon is ideally suited to a number of air defense, infantry and naval roles.



GA1 20x82mm automatic cannon shown in one of its naval applications: a pedestal deck mount on a light boat.

Explosive Incendiary (HEI) and High Explosive Incendiary Tracer (HEIT) filled with 107 grains of Hexal P30, base-fuzed Semi Armor Piercing High Explosive Incendiary (SAPHEI) filled with 92 grains of Hexal P18, and both dummy-fuzed Target Practice (TP) and Target Practice Tracer (TPT).

Small Package — Big Payload

Muzzle velocity of this ammunition is about 2,360 fps (720 m/s). The arming distance of the fuze is 8 meters, minimum. Tracing time of the HEIT and TPT rounds is two seconds, minimum. Soft iron driving bands are used to insure long barrel life and to prevent fouling. The weight of the projectile (or shell), filled and fuzed, is about 1,690 grains.

This is quite a payload in a small package and it is significantly superior to .50 caliber ball for antipersonnel applications, because it disperses numerous fragments into an area pattern often referred to as the "effective casualty radius." This is defined as the distance from the point of detonation at which a certain percentage of exposed personnel will be casualties. Unfortunately, there is no consensus as to what constitutes the proper percentage of casualties to be used in the definition. Some authorities and governments use 20% and others up to 50%. Furthermore, the orientation of the projectile's long axis at the moment of detonation will affect its wounding capability. Finally, in most instances this information, even if it has been determined, is classified.

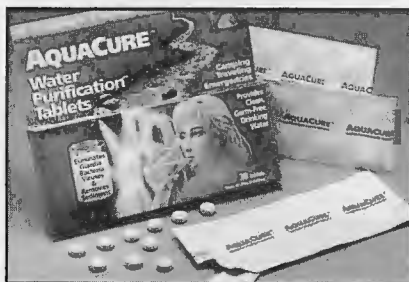
Nevertheless, 20mm guns can wreck awesome destruction upon unprotected troops. In addition, the GA1's SAPHEI round will defeat 25mm of NATO-standard armor plate at 100 meters (and about 10mm at 1,000 meters) and can thus be employed with considerable effectiveness against lightly armored vehicles, boats, sandbagged bunkers and buildings. A new AP round is currently under development at PMP (Pretoria Metal Pressings) with significantly improved penetration capability.

A wide range of aircraft gun pods, helicopter mounts and platforms, collapsible

Continued on page 64

by Galen Geer

Soldier Of Fortune recently tested new products on the plains of Zambia, while hunting in South Africa's thorn-veld and in our own Rocky Mountains. Here are the best of the bunch:



AquaCure

In Zambia last year, I helped inspect the camp of Rocco Gioia and his Zambian partner, John Kabemba, two weeks before safari season began. The camp's water purification system had not yet been set up, so we drank tea made with river water. Safesport's AquaCure water purification tablets would have been useful.

AquaCure tablets combine disinfection with "flocculating" to remove suspended water contaminants. When the tablet's action stops, the water is clear and germ-free. Allan Striker, Safesport president, says the tablets eliminate giardia, viruses and bacteria while also removing all manner of sediments.

Packed in individually sealed foil strips, AquaCure tablets come 30 to a box — enough to treat 8 gallons. For more information, contact: Safesport Manufacturing Co., Dept. SOF, 1100 W. 45th Ave., Denver, CO 80211; phone: 303-433-6506.

Binos For Eyeglasses

Bushnell's exclusive GlassesOn optical system available in two binocular models gives eyeglass wearers the full, wide field of view they miss when using most binoculars. These new binos are available in 7X35 and 10X50 and feature rubber armoring and center-focus, along with diopter adjustments on the lower-right objective barrels. For more information, contact: Bushnell, c/o Barbara Mellman, Dept. SOF, 9200 Cody, Overland Park, KS 66214; phone: 913-752-3400.

Unitron Binos

Unitron Inc. is offering a pro-series of binoculars designed for sportsmen. These are lightweight, compact instruments with fully coated lenses and improved eye relief to reduce scatter and UV light. For more information, write: Unitron Inc., Dept. SOF, 170 Wilbur Place, P.O. Box 469, Bohemia, NY 11716; phone: 516-589-6666.



Katadyn Minifilter

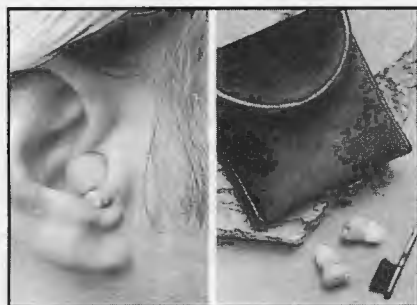
Katadyn is famous for water filter systems; now the Swiss company introduces the Minifilter, capable of purifying a half-quart of water per minute. Their new unit features a built-in measuring gauge, cleaning brush and 30-inch suction hose. The Minifilter eliminates carriers of giardiasis, cholera, typhoid, amebiasis, bilharziasis, salmonellosis and traveler's diarrhea. For more information, write: Katadyn USA, Dept. SOF, 3020 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85251; phone: 602-990-3131.



Ear Defender

Microcircuitry has entered into hearing protection. Starkey Laboratories is marketing "Ear Defenders" custom hearing protection for shooters. These are similar to custom-made hearing aids because each pair is made precisely to its user's individual ear-canal shapes. The two units are color-coded, so the wearer knows which ear each unit is made to fit.

Ear Defenders use tiny circuits to adjust the report of a gun's firing down to a safe level, yet they amplify normal sound so a hunter hears more in the field. On a shooting range, Ear Defenders have an EPA noise reduction rating of 26 decibels, comparing favorably with shooting-muff ratings of 20 to 30 decibels. For more information, write: Ear Defender, Starkey Laboratories Inc., Dept. SOF, 6700 Washington Ave. S., Eden Prairie, MN 55344; phone: 612-941-6401.



Gobbler Hearing System

A system designed primarily as a hunter hearing aid is available from Bracklynn Archery Products. Unlike the Ear Defenders, which protect hearing, the Gobbler System helps hunters hear the nearly silent shuffling of game animals moving through woods. By picking up sounds and amplifying them inside the ear canal, as a hearing aid also functions, the Gobbler aids the ear's natural direction-finding ability to stalk game. For more information, write: Bracklynn Archery Products Inc., Dept. SOF, 4400 Stillman Blvd., Suite C, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401; phone: 205-345-2697.



Ranging-brand Range Finders

Distance fools everyone; it's the biggest reason shooters miss targets. One of the most successful companies developing products to accurately measure distance is Ranging; they have a full line of range finders, including the 1000 Rangematic model, which measures distances from 50 to 1,000 yards. To help hunters understand distance and range finders, the company offers a free pamphlet, "Serious Advice From Serious Hunters." For your free copy, write: Ranging Rangefinders, Dept. SOF, Routes 5 & 20, East Bloomfield, NY 14443; phone: 716-657-6161.

Tasco Scope & Mounts

At a recent Winchester-Olin/Tasco seminar on new products held in Houston, Tasco's engineers mounted a prototype 8X40 Pro-Class varmint scope on a Winchester Model 70, SHB .308 rifle. When introduced, this may become one of the hottest scopes on the market. This Pro-Class scope withstood repeated poundings, yet was easily adjusted by different shooters and held each new zero.

Also, a Tasco competition pistol side-mount for scopes has become available featuring both windage and elevation adjustments. The base is machined from aircraft alloy and attaches rigidly to the pistol frame with hex screws. Mounts are offered for the Brno CZ-75 and CZ-85 autos, the Colt 1911A1 and imported CZ-style clones.

Other Tasco products include their Lever Ring Mounts, which attach and detach without tools. The quick-detach ring returns to zero with the lever-lock mounting. For more information, write: Tasco Information, c/o Kevin Howard, The Farrell Group, Dept. SOF, 2043 Woodland Parkway, Suite 220, St. Louis, MO 63146; phone: 314-991-3555.

New Eldorado Calibers

Eldorado Cartridge Corp. is now loading Barnes X-Line bullets. For hunters who do not reload, Eldorado's new loads give all shooters the opportunity to experience the accuracy and power of the X-Line bullet.

In handgun ammo, Eldorado has added three new calibers to their Starfire line, for a total of seven available varieties; the new calibers are .45 ACP, .40 S&W and .357 Magnum. For more information, contact: Eldorado Cartridge Corp., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 62508, Boulder City, NV, 89006; phone: 702-294-0025.

Winchester's Black Talon & Supreme

Winchester-Olin introduced its Supreme Black Talon pistol bullets at the 1992 SHOT Show. Now it follows suit with rifle ammunition incorporating the same design principles, available in .338 and 300 Winchester Magnum, 30-06 Springfield and .308 Winchester.

In match ammunition, Winchester has added two loads: a 69-grain HPBT for .223 Remington and a 168-grain HPBT for .308 Winchester. I used the .308 ammo testing the Tasco Pro-Class scope — 10 shots at 100 yards were all on the "X" from a benchrest. To learn more, write: Winchester-Olin Information, The Farrell Group, Dept. SOF, 2043 Woodland Pkwy, Suite 220, St. Louis, MO 63146; phone: 314-991-3555. ✕



Reykjavik, Iceland, as seen from the Hotel Holt during the three hours of daylight the city receives during winter. Photo: courtesy Jacquie Davis, CTU

In late fall, fearing their daughters might not long survive in Etta's care, and seeing little progress through conventional channels, the fathers contacted CTU for help. Don and Judy Feeney agreed to take the case. Brian's mother, Olbia, put up the initial money for the operation.

On 6 January 1993, Judy arrived in Iceland to see if a rescue was feasible. She was met by Jacquie Davis, the head of CTU's London office. Jacquie had 14 years of experience as a British "bobby" and had been an undercover investigator with West German police. During her years as a police officer, "I dealt with everything: burglaries, pedophiles, football hooligans, everything."

It was 10 degrees below zero and snowing when they rendezvoused in Reykjavik, Iceland's capital and only major city. During January, there are only three hours of daylight, from 1130 to 1430 when the skies are a dull, depressing gray.

They rented a car and took rooms at the Hotel Holt, Reykjavik's best. Then they lay in a snowy field watching a house for nearly two days before sighting Etta and the girls. But their movements were erratic, and the two CTU operatives couldn't be certain they were living there. Because they could not see the front of the house, it was possible that Etta and the girls were actually coming and going.

Tired, cold, and discouraged, Judy and Jacquie decided the surveillance was unproductive and a direct approach was needed. Using a ruse that had worked before, Jacquie knocked on the door and was met by Etta's mother. Jacquie explained she was locations manager for a motion picture company and might be interested in using the house. Judy didn't accompany her because an American might tip off Etta's family that something was up.

Etta's mother invited Jacquie in and introduced her to her son, Bjorn. An English teacher, Mrs. Eyjolfssdottir spoke flawless English, and Jacquie stayed for

almost 40 minutes. She told them the film was called "The Viking," hinting it would star Sylvester Stallone. Mrs. Eyjolfssdottir was thrilled and offered to be of help, so Jacquie invited the family to their hotel for dinner.

The next evening, Mrs. Eyjolfssdottir arrived with sons Bjorn and Jan, and her daughter Etta. They had a jovial three-and-a-half hour dinner, and Etta offered to come by the next afternoon and show Jacquie Reykjavik.

Whining And Dining

"The first night Etta didn't drink any alcohol or even eat anything," recalls Jacquie, "but the following day she sat down and drank a couple of bottles of wine and explained that she didn't do anything in front of her mother and that she had been in detox in Iceland and in Florida and didn't want anyone to know that she was still into alcohol." Loosened by the wine, Etta described how "she'd been into pornography ... with other women. She'd had pornographic photographs taken. She'd made a [pornographic] film or video." Etta also told Jacquie about her ex-husbands and custody battles back in the States, making it clear she had many boyfriends and was "very, very promiscuous." Then "she started to tell me how she hated her children. Hated Iceland. Hated her parents. And as soon as she could get out of Iceland, she would."

This was the beginning of an intense three-week "friendship" with Etta, during which Jacquie managed to win her trust and confidence. Etta was on welfare, so she had plenty of time. A routine developed where Etta would come to Jacquie's room at the hotel and "drink the complete contents of the mini-bar." She would use the liquor to wash down amphetamines, Jacquie said. She was also trying "to get me in bed," Jacquie recalls, and later Jacquie's colleague, Lawrence Canavan, because "she went both ways."

To escape from Etta's clutches when she became amorous, Jacquie signaled Judy in the next room by flushing the toilet. When Judy heard the toilet, she would phone Jacquie's room for a "business" conversation to interrupt Etta's advances and ruin the mood.

On 15 January, Lawrence, a former Royal Irish Ranger from CTU's London office, arrived in Reykjavik. Jacquie introduced him to Etta as the film's security coordinator. Lingering over much wine after dinner, Lawrence — posing as a bachelor — asked Etta why, if she viewed her daughters as such a hindrance to her lifestyle, didn't she just leave them in America? Her reply was chilling: "I wouldn't give my ex-husbands the satisfaction. I'd kill them first, and I'd kill myself."

The more time Jacquie and Judy spent with Etta and the little girls, the more cause they had for concern. When Elizabeth became extremely ill, Etta refused to take her to the doctor, saying she didn't like the necessary bus ride. They finally persuaded Etta it was imperative Elizabeth see a doctor: The doctor diagnosed Elizabeth as recovering from scarlet fever and issued a prescription. Ironically, the next day Jacquie took Etta to the doctor, who diagnosed Etta's malaise as gonorrhoea. With Etta broke, Jacquie bought her prescription. But it was observing the neglect and physical abuse of the children by their mother that lent urgency to the situation.

Etta complained so frequently and so loudly about the children that Judy finally concluded they should make a direct approach to her. Jacquie and Lawrence concurred, as any effort to snatch the children and spirit them back to the United States would be risky. Not only was Etta capable of harming the children or herself, they believed, but Iceland is isolated, with only one major airport. Icelandic police are well-trained and professional, unlike corrupt, often incompetent police CTU had encountered in Third World countries.

Accordingly, during one of her afternoon visits to Jacquie's room, Judy introduced herself. She told the wide-eyed Etta who they really were and laid her cards on the table: "What is it going to take to get these kids away from you? You don't want these kids, so tell us what it's gonna take to let the father come and take these kids away."

\$5,000 Secret

"I want to go to England to live," Etta responded, "and some money."

"How much?" Judy demanded.

"Five thousand dollars," came the reply.

Judy couldn't believe it. It was almost too easy. "You've got it," she assured Etta.

Etta told them it must be secret. No one — especially her parents — should know. With that stipulation, Etta would turn her back and make the kids available



From left to right, Judy, Jacquie and Lawrence with Brian Grayson's parents at their Florida home — after returning from Iceland short two little girls, one daddy and one operative. Photo: courtesy Jacquie Davis

so CTU operatives could grab them in an apparent kidnapping.

"We said OK," said Jacquie, "But she didn't want to do it in Iceland — she wanted to do it in Zurich [Switzerland]." The CTU operatives reluctantly agreed and bought tickets for Etta and the girls. Further buttressing Etta's alibi, a local tabloid, *Timinn*, ran a front-page story about the phony movie. Etta told Jacquie her brother leaked the story, but Jacquie believes it was Etta herself who phoned *Timinn*.

On 20 January, Etta came to the airport with only Elizabeth, saying her mother had sensed something amiss and refused

to let her leave with both children. Her brothers also were suspicious, she said, but nothing to worry about. All they had to do was conduct the charade to Zurich and return, which would put all fears to rest. Etta promised once they were back in Iceland, she would make it easy to snatch the girls and hustle them home to America.

In the meantime, Etta told them, she expected to be wine-d, dined and generally taken care of. Furthermore, she demanded her \$5,000 payment.

Although it had all the hallmarks of a sucker punch, Judy and her confederates had to play Etta's game. They flew to Zurich.

Safely in their Zurich hotel, Jacquie entered Etta's room to find her and little Elizabeth watching a hard-core porno movie. Elizabeth wanted to watch Batman and complained. When she complained again, Etta hit her. The following day Lawrence took Etta and Elizabeth on a road tour of Germany, although Etta wanted to go to Italy. One evening at their hotel, Etta backhanded Elizabeth for wanting to go on a proposed nightclub trek with Lawrence. Etta then demanded that Lawrence do what she wanted, complaining that "that was the deal." He refused, and after another day of touring, they returned to Zurich, then went back to Iceland on 25 January with Jacquie and Judy.

But Worth It?

It was an expensive and time-consuming interlude, but they were convinced they had reached an accommodation with Etta, and she would keep her bargain. At every opportunity she assured them she was glad they were taking the kids off her hands, as once relieved of the "burden," she could get on with her life.

Back in Reykjavik, Etta offered to move into the hotel so the children would be more accessible. "Take me out to dinner," she directed, "wine and dine me, and I'll get publicly drunk. Afterwards, I'll say that I woke up the next day and the kids were gone."

Everything went according to plan. Etta became so drunk at dinner that Jacquie and Lawrence had to carry her to the car. "She was blotto," said Jacquie. Once back at the hotel, she passed out.

Fayetteville Observer-Times

Vol. CLXXVII-No. 199
Fayetteville, N.C.
HOME EDITION
Tuesday, February 2, 1993
6 Cents

Mother Agrees To Take Money For Girls, 2 Say

By Steve DeVano
Two women who tried to get two girls out of Iceland last week say the girls' mother accepted a \$5,000 payoff to let them leave. Don Feeney, 37, then first Corporate Training Unlimited, Inc., and Jacquie Davis, 33, who said she was the company's director, said they were hit the headlines when a bid for two young girls aged 10 and 11 was announced or conducted in London, England. The girls are the daughters of Erna Eyjolfsson, of Gardabear, Iceland, who is involved in custody disputes with both Grayson and Marine Gunnery Sgt. Frederick Pittman of Pennsylvania. Elizabeth and Jacquie Davis are involved in custody battles with the girls' mother, Erna Eyjolfsson, of Gardabear, Iceland. The girls are the daughters of Erna Eyjolfsson, of Gardabear, Iceland, who is involved in custody disputes with both Grayson and Marine Gunnery Sgt. Frederick Pittman of Pennsylvania. Elizabeth and Jacquie Davis are involved in custody battles with the girls' mother, Erna Eyjolfsson, of Gardabear, Iceland.

International rescue ends in court

Man Upbeat On Iceland

By Steve DeVano
A Fayetteville man said Wednesday he is confident that some good will come from the time he has spent in an Icelandic prison on kidnapping charges. Don Feeney, 37, was arrested Jan. 27. The man was convicted March 2 of kidnapping Mr. Grayson's daughter, Anna, and her half-sister, Elizabeth. Mr. Grayson and Marine Gunnery Sgt. Frederick Pittman of Pennsylvania are involved in custody disputes with Erna Eyjolfsson, the girls' mother. Florida court records showed the father consented to the girls' custody in court. Several letters to Icelandic newspapers were sympathetic toward the father, he said. "It's definitely going to result in some good for the kids," Mr. Feeney said. Mr. Feeney and Mr. Grayson were arrested when authorities

Judge To Rule On Abduction Case In Iceland

CTU Rescue Attempt On TV/Tonight At 10

A network news program tonight will show the story of a failed attempt by a Fayetteville company to get two girls out of Iceland. Dateline NBC will include a segment on Corporate Training Unlimited's efforts to return Anna Grayson, 4, and Elizabeth Pittman, 10, to the United States. The girls' fathers, James Brian Grayson of Navarre, Fla., and Marine Gunnery Sgt. Frederick Pittman of Pennsylvania, are involved in custody battles with the girls' mother, Erna Eyjolfsson of Gardabear, Iceland. Earlier this month, Don Feeney, 37, who runs the company, and Mr. Grayson, 33, were convicted of kidnapping the girls. The Icelandic Supreme Court upheld the conviction last week. The men were arrested Jan. 27 when authorities found them at Iceland's international airport with Anna. Dateline can be seen at 10 p.m. on WECT-6 of Wilmington, cable channel 6, and WRDC-28 of Raleigh, cable channel 13.

Demand for punishment ends kidnapping trial in Iceland

Associated Press
REYKJAVIK, Iceland — The case against two Americans charged with attempted kidnapping ended Friday with a plea demand that they be sentenced to 16 years in prison. Don Feeney, 37, of Fayetteville, Fla., and Jacquie Davis, 33, of Fayetteville, Fla., are accused of trying to take two young girls — one of them Grayson's daughter — out of Iceland illegally. Feeney runs Corporate Training Unlimited, a Fayetteville security consulting and training firm. The company has been involved in attempts to return children involved in custody disputes from foreign countries.

Man Upbeat On Iceland

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At 0530 the next morning, Brian Grayson and Don Feeney, who had arrived in Iceland the previous day, came to the hotel. Everyone was packed and ready to go. Brian had Anna's custody papers and papers from Sgt. Pittman granting him temporary custody of Elizabeth. As a serving Marine, Pittman had not come to Iceland because if something went awry, he didn't want to embarrass the Corps. It was a wise decision.

They awoke the girls and got them cleaned and dressed. Jacquie explained to Elizabeth that they were going to England and she became very excited.

Accompanied by Elizabeth, Judy and Jacquie went in the first car since they knew the way to the Keflavik airport. Lawrence, Don, Brian and Anna followed. It was icy cold and pitch-black outside. Halfway to the airport, Elizabeth began to sing "God Bless America," and Judy and Jacquie realized she had figured out what was afoot. The song brought tears to their eyes, and Elizabeth

not see them and simply assumed they boarded OK.

Judy and the others fell asleep to wake up just before landing. Assuming Don and the others would deplane shortly, Judy and her team waited at the transfer desk. They had been there but a few moments when an immigration official approached and asked, "Do you have travel authority for that child?"

"Yes," responded Judy. "She's traveling with a friend of her father, and he'll be off the plane any moment."

They waited, watching all the passengers deplane, without any sign of Don, Brian or Anna.

When the plane was empty, the immigration officer escorted them to a holding room and several policemen appeared. They listened impassively while Judy explained who they were and what they had just done.

Moments later, another policeman took Elizabeth to an adjacent room and asked if her mother abused her. Unaware of what

pathetic to the CTU rescuers as they listened to their story, and soon they dropped their confrontational approach and became almost apologetic.

Winning Battle, Losing War

At 1800, after seven hours of interrogation, Judy was informed that if the extradition request hadn't arrived by 2000 that evening, they would be set free to catch the 2015 flight to London.

When the rescuers exited through Luxembourg immigration, one of the officers began to clap and several others gave them a thumbs-up sign. Arriving in England, one of Jacquie's friends from Scotland Yard suggested they have an impromptu holiday in Greece in case Iceland sought extradition from the U.K. So Jacquie and Judy routed back to America with a one-day layover in Greece.

Today, Don Feeney and Brian Grayson sit in an Icelandic prison. They were tried on kidnapping charges and found guilty in late February 1993. Their appeal has been denied by the Icelandic supreme court. Don is serving a two-year sentence which, with time off for good behavior, will probably mean 10 months in prison. Grayson was handed a one-year sentence and will have to serve between three and four months.

Judy maintains that Don and Brian Grayson are "political prisoners." Unlike some previous rescues, "they were using their own names and passports, and were simply trying to leave Iceland with two abused American children. They had legal custody of the children."

If a mission had to go sour, Judy is thankful it happened in Iceland and not some Third World despotism where Don and Brian might have been thrown into a dark hole or even shot. Don agreed. "Jail in Iceland," he said, "is a lot easier than Ranger School."

Things are more difficult for Brian Grayson, who has to worry not only about his own future, but about his daughter, who has been returned to her abusive mother.

Postlude And Prognosis

Asked if he thinks Etta set them up, Lawrence shakes his head: "I don't know. But I'd volunteer for the mission again tomorrow because it's the right thing to do. I have all the admiration in the world for Don and Judy Feeney and what they do. Being a parent myself, I'm proud to think there are people out there that'll help you when no one else will."

"We're devastated that the mission wasn't successful," said Judy. "I want Brian Grayson back home. I want those two girls to come home. And I want Don to come home so we can get on with other rescues." Unapologetic about their work, Judy adds: "There is nothing sweeter than rescuing a child from an abusive situation."

Judy vows to keep CTU operating un-

Continued on page 71



Anna Grayson and mother Etta Eyjolfsson "celebrate" Christmas. Photo: courtesy author

followed it with "America the Beautiful."

They were booked on Icelandair to Luxembourg, connecting to London. The first group — Judy, Jacquie, and Elizabeth — passed immigration with no problems. They had courtesy passes to the business class lounge and waited there.

"Hertz is not open yet," Don told Judy. "We'll be along as soon as we get the cars taken care of."

Flight Of Fantasy

Encountering no difficulties, Judy was not overly concerned when Don, Brian and Anna had not appeared. Lawrence joined them, and at the boarding call they hurried to take their seats. Don and the others, Judy concluded, must have been running late and decided to board the plane directly. As their seats were aft, Judy could

was happening, she replied, "n-no" in a frightened voice. An Icelandair employee took the girl away over angry protests from CTU operatives. Elizabeth was on the first flight back to Iceland.

Judy, Jacquie and Lawrence were taken to police headquarters and interrogated at length. Judy was permitted to contact the U.S. Embassy, a vice counsel showing up a short time later. Judy also placed a call to Sgt. Pittman, who immediately faxed documents to the embassy, explaining the case and demonstrating that he and Grayson had complete, legal custody of their daughters.

By late afternoon, a police officer told Judy they were awaiting a formal extradition request from Iceland, then they would be sent back to Reykjavik. Police interrogators were becoming more and more sym-

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MA DEUCE

Continued from page 57

pedestal mounts, hand-operated combination mounts (to mount a .30 caliber machine gun in tandem), dual mounts, ring gear and adjustable tripods expand the GA1's applications to employment on a wide range of vehicles, boats and aircraft.

I fired several hundred rounds through two GA1s on the Gemini dual-gun mount (equipped with the "FELLER" cradle-brake recoil system) attached to the bed of a South African Mamba MPV. Developed under actual service conditions during 30 years of experience in desert- and bush-terrain guerrilla war, the Mamba series demonstrates that a 2-wheel-drive vehicle with correct mass distribution can outperform a 4x4 vehicle on steep slopes and mountains.

When securely mounted, GA1 hit probability exceeds that of the .50 caliber Browning M2 HB. Reliability is exceptional by any standards. Muzzle blast is no greater than that of any heavy machine gun, and the flash signature is significantly less than that generated by the Degtyarev Model 38/42. The battle-proven and potent GA1 20x82mm automatic cannon provides a higher level of performance against enemy personnel, especially in dense brush, than any HMG ever fielded — in an envelope no larger than Ma Deuce. I can think of no combat role in which the compact, lightweight GA1 would not be superior to a heavy machine gun.

GA1 METHOD OF OPERATION

The method of operation is roller-locked, short-recoil with firing from the open-bolt position. The cyclic rate is 650 to 750 rpm. Belt-fed, the GA1 uses push-through disintegrating steel links. The headspace is fixed.

The bolt is a two-piece assembly with three lugs on the bolt head (similar in appearance to interrupted threads) that rotate slightly more than 57 degrees clockwise to lock within recesses in a receiver bushing. The bolt head also contains the two locking rollers, which run on cam tracks in an unlocking ring inside the receiver body.

The front end of the receiver bushing holds the barrel by means of interrupted threads. A spring-loaded, anti-bounce device that consists of a steel balance weight with a multi-strand spring — both riding inside the bolt carrier — serves as a stabilizer for the reciprocating components.

A heavy claw extractor with a multi-strand spring is fitted to the bolt head and lies opposite the ejector. A cam on the feed tray pushes the ejector forward to expel the empty case during the counter-recoil stroke.

There is a heavy compression spring between the receiver bushing and the unlocking ring. When the barrel moves rearward in recoil, it drives the bolt head rearward against the cams on the unlocking ring to rotate the bolt head anti-clockwise

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out of battery. A multi-strand spring buffer at the rear of the receiver absorbs some of the system's recoil energy.

The cocking mechanism is a chain-type with an inner spring that draws the cocking handle back after retracting. The recoil spring rides on a guide rod which contains the cocking-handle spring in its hollow interior. Solenoid operation using a 28-volt system is an available option.

The sleeve retainer, a cylindrical cup at the front end of the recoil tube (or sleeve), retains the recoil spring and also has a projection which mates with a nub on top of the bolt to drive the bolt assembly back and forth.

The GA1 design permits either right- or left-hand feed. Changeover requires only replacement of the recoil sleeve (which holds the multi-strand recoil spring). The recoil tube has either a right- or left-hand helix cut. This sleeve operates the feed mechanism. After changing the recoil tube, then only the feed pawls need to be reversed to change the direction of feed.

Longitudinal serrations around the recoil tube mate with splines on the feed-slide assembly. These, together with the helical cut in the recoil tube, move the feed pawls back and forth.

There are two sets of pawls: the spring-loaded feed pawls on the feed slide, and two stationary spring-loaded holding pawls on the top cover. The top cover is milled from bar stock. The cover for the feed pawls and the bullet lead are both sheet-metal pressings.

A large sheet-metal bullet stop must also be changed from one side of the feed tray to the other when changing the direction of feed. There is an additional spring-loaded bullet stop on the top cover. The rear half of the feed tray is hard-chromed to inhibit wear from the Boxer-primed, deep-drawn steel cartridge cases passing across it.

- P. G. K.

RUGER

Continued from page 46

Sight Company Inc. (Dept. SOF, 7389 Lapeer Road, P.O. Box 329, Davison, MI 48423; phone: 313-653-2131).

Ruger obviously feels these sights are for emergency use only, as they have provided scope bases integral with the receiver casting. A set of Ruger KD-72M stainless-steel 1-inch rings are also included with each rifle.

More than 1,000 rounds were fired during SOF's test and evaluation of the Mini Thirty and the U.S. Optics Model SN-4 Rapid Response scope (see sidebar). Five loads were tested; three were military ball.

The Ruger instruction manual explicitly warns against the "use of corrosively primed imported ammunition." No less than 28 countries have manufactured 7.62x39mm ammunition, the vast majority of it with corrosive primers. Ammunition of this type from China (PRC), Yugoslavia and now of East German origin all made caliber 7.62x39mm firearms popular because it was, and is, inexpensive. If

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SOF#0193 Doggie Style & graphics
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the rifle's bore and all components of the gas system are thoroughly cleaned with hot, soapy water or Shooter's Choice bore solvent subsequent to firing, ammunition with corrosive primers will not damage the Ruger Mini Thirty or any other firearm.

Military ball ammunition used in our test and evaluation included so-called PRC "match-grade" (headstamped "101 71"), Yugoslav M67 ammunition (headstamped with a Cyrillic "NK 1983") and East German ball (headstamped "04 84"). The latter was recently imported in substantial quantity by Century International Arms Inc. (Dept. SOF, 48 Lower Newton Street, St. Albans, VT 05478; phone: 802-527-1252). All three types are corrosive Berdan-primed.

Neither the PRC nor the East German ammunition would be my choice if the targets were of the human variety. Their non-deforming, boat-tail bullets do not commence to yaw in human soft tissue after 10 inches of penetration, and abdominal shots usually exhibit no greater tissue disruption than that produced by a .38 Special bullet, albeit at greater ranges.

Yugoslavia's M67 ball ammunition is far more effective. It has a flat-based 124-grain bullet with a copper-alloy jacket and lead core. This bullet commences its yaw cycle in human tissue after only 3 to 4 inches of penetration. Although shorter than the more common boat-tail projectile, it will cause more damage to the ab-

dominal contents (liver, spleen, intestines or pancreas) because it passes through these organs at a large yaw angle.

Nominal diameter of these military bullets is .310 of an inch. The average velocity varies from about 2,270 to 2,310 feet per second (fps). None of them would group better than 3 to 4 inches at 100 yards.

Hollow-point and soft-point (SP) projectiles should increase the Mini Thirty's effectiveness against both antelope-sized game and human targets, putting the 7.62x39mm cartridge on a par with the .30-30 Winchester.

Choose The Right Load

Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that 7.62x39mm commercial ammunition supposedly designed for hunting will perform as advertised. Federal's 123-grain soft-point ammunition is a disappointing example of marketing a bullet without first properly testing for terminal performance.

Tests at the wound ballistics laboratory of the Letterman Army Institute of Research indicated that 80% of the time this bullet would not expand or deform (except for the "wiping" off of the small point of lead alloy exposed at the tip). The rest of the time it performed as a frangible varmint round and blew up into many small fragments. The jackets of the Federal bullets that did not expand did not become thinner over the ogive (as is the case with all other expanding SP bullets) and, in

fact, became thicker near the point.

Tests have indicated that caliber 7.62x39mm SP ammunition manufactured and/or imported by Winchester, Hansen, Norma and PMC will expand uniformly.

In an effort to increase the Mini Thirty's accuracy potential and its effectiveness against soft-tissue targets, we resorted to reloaded ammunition with soft-point projectiles.

Hornady's 123-grain jacketed soft-point (JSP) .311-inch bullet was designed specifically for the 7.62x39mm cartridge. When propelled by 25 grains of Du Pont's relatively fast-burning IMR 4198, this bullet will generate an average velocity of 2,300 fps in the Mini Thirty. Accuracy is no better than 3 inches at 100 yards.

Speer's 130-grain flat-nose JSP bullet has a diameter of .308-inch, which matches the Mini Thirty's .3085-inch groove diameter. When driven by the same charge weight of IMR 4198 as the Hornady bullet, the Speer projectile will provide an average velocity of 2,265 fps. It will produce 2-inch groups at 100 yards and expands in a uniform manner. It is our preferred load for the Mini Thirty and places the 7.62x39mm cartridge just under the .30-30 in effectiveness.

There were no stoppages of any type during SOF's test and evaluation of the Ruger Mini Thirty. Perceived recoil is negligible in all rifles chambered for the 7.62x39mm cartridge. Compact and of only moderate weight, the Mini Thirty's

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overall handling characteristics are excellent.

Accuracy potential is superior to the Kalashnikov series and comparable to any slide-action or lever-action carbine. As the firing pin is retracted until the bolt rotates into battery, U.S. commercial primers can be used in reloaded ammunition without fear of premature ignition. With most empty cases falling 6 feet to the right of the weapon, the ejection pattern is far less violent than that of either the Kalashnikov or SKS — good news for reloaders.

With a suggested retail price of \$580 (\$530 for the blued model), who will be attracted to the Ruger Mini Thirty? When equipped with the sturdy U.S. Optics Model SN-4 1X-to-4X variable scope and 20- to 30-round magazines, ranchers, brush hunters, survivalists, plinkers and law-enforcement personnel should be drawn to Ruger's high quality and the low cost of 7.62x39mm ammunition.

Disassembly Procedures

After firing, gas-operated weapons need careful cleaning. Disassembly procedures for the Mini Thirty are straightforward and in general mimic those for the M14.

Remove the scope and mount. This will not affect the zero. Remove the magazine and clear the weapon by retracting and releasing the operating group. With the hammer cocked, place the safety to the "on" position. Insert a steel rod into the hole at the rear of the trigger guard.

Lift the trigger guard upward and toward the muzzle with as much force as you can muster.

Remove the trigger housing assembly and separate the barreled receiver group from the stock by slapping the heel of the buttstock. Compress the recoil spring into the slide's hollow interior until you can separate the spring and guide rod from the bushing under the receiver. Push out the bushing's cross-pin and remove the bushing.

Lift off the handguard by squeezing the sides and raising the rear portion. Pull the operating rod to the rear and align its locking projection with the disassembly notch on the receiver. Separate the operating rod/slide from the receiver. Remove the bolt-lock cover plate by tapping it downward with a brass or nylon drift. Lift out the bolt-lock/ejector, its spring and plunger. Pull the bolt forward and out of the receiver.

Scrub the stationary piston and interior of the gas shield with solvent and a Scotch-Brite scourpad to remove as much carbine residue as possible. Do not attempt to remove the piston or gas-block assembly. Do not use lubricants of any kind on any component in the gas system. Wipe the carbon residue off the stock's sheet-metal heat shield. Lubricate all of the reciprocating parts.

Reassemble in the reverse order. Insert the bolt body at a 45-degree angle to the receiver and rotate down and back. When

reinstalling the recoil spring and guide rod, the guide rod's chisel-shaped tip must go under the bushing's cross-pin. ✕

LONGEST YARDS

Continued from page 29

tribespeople to a world quite different from what they left behind are prime objectives, noted Cindy McCurdy, manager of the LFS Amerasian Program. "They learn everything from banking and grocery shopping to doing the laundry."

Additional funding and items such as badly needed clothing have come through donations from area churches and private citizens. Interestingly, there has been little, if any, need for counseling of the new Dega arrivals. McCurdy attributes this to North Carolina's low welfare payments and a "high peer pressure to succeed" from fellow Dega.

Though they come from five different tribes (Rhade, Jarai, Bahnar, Koho and M'ngong) with 147 subgroups, in North Carolina the Dega are one. This was certainly the case at the pre-Christmas reunion.

Montagnards there formed a beautiful choir, with many singers dressed in jungle fatigues worn recently in Cambodia. A haunting rendition of FULRO's national anthem was performed in the Rhade

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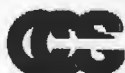
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tongue, followed by "The Star Spangled Banner" sung in halting English. They acted out songs depicting Dega struggles and also sang Christmas carols (Dega are Catholic and Protestant).

Embraces and hearty welcomes afterward between SF vets and their counterparts evidenced an obviously undying camaraderie — a belated promise fulfilled for some.

Marc Phillip Yablonka has reported on Vietnam, Laos and Thailand for Stars and Stripes and has freelanced for Japan Times, Jakarta Post and the National Catholic Register. A Burbank resident, he is also a stringer for the Los Angeles Times. ✕

BALKANS

Continued from page 51

clear military objective is nuts. If committed to that senseless Balkan killing field, U.S. trainers will become prime targets. They'll be shot by Croats and Bosnians who will blame the killings — as repeatedly done in Sarajevo — on the Serbs. We will be sucked further into war when we follow with more trainers, then security forces (i.e., U.S. infantry battalions) to protect the trainers.

The Serbs will kill our people because we took sides. Our U.S. forces and trainers will be clay pigeons downrange in a three-way (and possibly in the future, seven-way) civil war. It will be Vietnam all over again. It will be a lose-lose situation for our troops and for people of the Balkans, because it won't balance the mismatch. More killing machines will only increase the killing.

This same group of crackpots also wants to use U.S. air power for a repeat of Desert Storm. They don't realize that mountainous terrain makes air power almost useless against a guerrilla enemy who, as in Afghanistan, would easily find places to hide.

Yes, Serbia's heavy artillery and air force could be taken out, but after that, it's Vietnam all over again. In Vietnam, a light-infantry guerrilla whipped both the United States and France while never flying one combat aircraft mission over South Vietnam. Two superpowers were knocked off by a 90-pound guy in tennis shoes using AKs, RPGs and mortars in terrain much like Bosnia's.

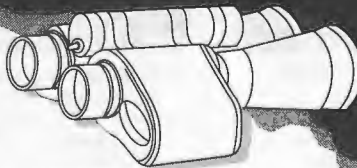
I once asked military columnist David Evans for his solution to the madness in the Balkans. He replied: "Build a 10-foot-high concrete wall around the Balkans, and every month stick your head over and do a body count."

This was said with gallows humor, but the more I've studied the problem, the more I think Evans' satiric comment was dead on target.

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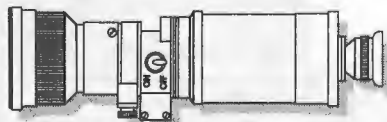
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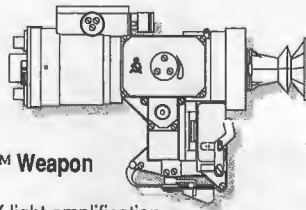


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What We Should Do:

- Continue to support the United Nations, but make its blockade and sanctions work. Right now there are more holes in the blockade than in a rabbit warren. The U.S. Navy — if the Pentagon and United Nations put some teeth in their bite — could bottle up the Jugs' Adriatic ports and the Danube River.

- Once weapons, ammo and military supplies are cut off, then the level of violence can drop. This doesn't mean the killing will stop. These mad dudes will simply go back to rocks and clubs. But at least it will ratchet the volume down.

- Provide as much humanitarian assistance as possible — to be distributed only by U.N. agencies. This should only transpire to help implement a U.N. peace plan, if and when this happens.

- Provide the United Nations with U.S. military NATO-based support troops (logistics, medicine, engineer, transportation) and intelligence-gathering people, along with gear to include satellite and aerial systems.

- Operate a "Voice of the U.N." broadcast to win the people's hearts and minds while countering the intense propaganda now put out by all combatants in heavier doses than those of Hitler's Dr. Goebbels.

- What we should *not* do is commit one American combat trooper on the ground in what was Yugoslavia. Like Somalia, the complete Balkans are not worth the life of one American. The word from my Pentagon spies is that President Clinton plans to use U.S. NATO-based combat troops as peacekeepers somewhere down the track. Politicians like Clinton — few of whom have ever worn a soldier's suit — are quick to write checks that young men pay off with their lives. Too often they forget that war is easy to get into and hard to get out of.

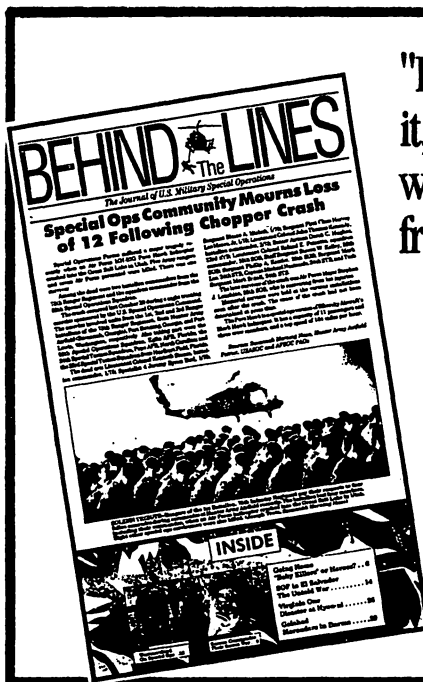
Getting into the Balkans with U.S. ground-combat troops would be the worst military mistake of this century. Row upon row of white crosses in military cemeteries across this land attest that we have made our share of mistakes already. Let's learn from the past and leave these mean mothers to sort it out for themselves.

Col. David Hackworth served 25 years in the U.S. Army and is America's most decorated living veteran. In 1989 he authored the international best-seller About Face.

SOF POPS CAPS

Continued from page 34

the nationality of the troops based there and couldn't care less. He had no use for the United Nations. As usual during the night, sporadic machine-gun fire could be heard echoing in the distance. He laughed when asked about this. "Democratic



"I grabbed a grenade, threw it, and readied another as it went off in the jungle in front of me..."

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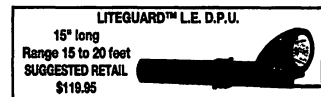
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Kampuchea maybe kills U.N. base!" he said. "No more base!" That was unlikely, at least for now. He was more concerned with the SOC offensive, and had seven cadre on patrol to ensure that nothing surprised us during the night. Like myself, however, he was mostly worried about another BM-21 multiple rocket launcher attack. There was nowhere at all to escape from these "Stalin Organs" as they laid entire square kilometers to waste.

The SOC offensive against the Khmer Rouge was going as well as any offensive against an experienced guerrilla army, which is to say it wasn't going very well. The Khmer Rouge was all over Cambodia, in groups as large as the one I was with, to ones as small as a single guerrilla in Phnom Penh with a grenade or two. As such, not much was visibly happening in the field. Hundreds of rounds of artillery were being fired all around the country — but in a hundred places, four or five rounds at a time. The SOC was fighting an elusive, almost invisible enemy. It was hopeless.

"It's not only hopeless, it's just fueling the fires of revenge for the future," Davies said after I returned to Battambang. "What will happen is the elections will go ahead in May and Sihanouk's FUNCINPEC will win. The war will then start up again, with the country partitioned between the Khmer Rouge and the new government. The killing will continue. It's been that way for 30 years, and it won't change because the U.N.'s in town. Too much hate runs too deep in this place, and it's not just against the Vietnamese. In Cambodia, everybody hates everybody else for some reason or another. I really can't see peace here, not in this lifetime."

Samreth, rougher at the edges than Doungsamith or Davies, was a little more to the point. "Democratic Kampuchea will kill all its enemies no problem, because the revolution is right." The young captain's enemies include most of the 379,000 refugees returning from Thailand, the United Nations, all ethnic Vietnamese in Cambodia and all supporters of political parties opposed to the Khmer Rouge. That adds up to about half the population of Cambodia. Good thing there were several shovels in my hut.

John Kreiger is a former SOF staffer currently touring trouble spots in Southeast Asia.

SOF UNDER FIRE

Continued from page 35

arctic training in Norway.

At one of the furthest checkpoints, a local Cambodian guide fired at a monkey and missed, but the shot attracted the attention of the Khmer

TACTICAL ELECTRONICS

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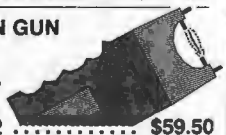
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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE MAGAZINE

Rouge. Expecting tension, I was surprised when the marines succeeded in coaxing them out of the jungle for an amicable impromptu meeting. It says a lot for the Dutch that such successes are not unusual for them on a local level, despite the official Khmer Rouge policy of non-fraternization.

The next day another Russian Mi-17 flew in to drop supplies and extract me. As I filmed its low approach over Khmer Rouge-held territory, I heard the rattle of distant small-arms fire. The helicopter swung in over the trees and stirred up a dust storm as it sank down onto the steel mesh of the helipad. As Marines moved in to unload stores, they spotted aviation fuel gushing from a bullet hole in one of the fuel tanks. The firing I'd heard had been directed at my chopper — the latest in a series of shooting incidents involving U.N. helicopters. The leaking fuel was caught in cans and poured into the second, now-empty, fuel tank to enable the helicopter to fly itself to a workshop in Battambang.

It seems that, despite the U.N. peace effort, the Khmer Rouge leopard has not lost all its spots. But whatever the future holds, there clearly have been changes in Cambodia. In the areas I visited, the quality of life for most Cambodians had improved immeasurably in the three short years since my last trip. Now there were schools, roads, hospitals and trade where before there was only fear.

There is no doubt that the U.N. presence has at least enabled a window of opportunity to open for the Cambodians. Whether they choose to step through it into a new era of peace and recovery from war, or slam it shut and return to further bloodletting is up to them.

A frequent contributor to SOF, Peter Douglas is a former Royal Marine and an experienced photojournalist who has filed reports from Afghanistan, Lebanon — and a number from the jungles of Cambodia. ✕

ICELAND

Continued from page 63

til Don is released. To publicize Don's plight, she is selling T-shirts with the legend "Bringing American Children Home ... Somebody's Got To Do It" on the front, and a list of all of the children they've rescued and the countries they were rescued from on the back. At the bottom are Anna and Elizabeth's names across from Iceland and a large question mark. (These T-shirts are available in sizes S-XXL for \$15.45 postpaid from the Don Feeny De-

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A frequent contributor to SOF, Neil C. Livingstone is author of the book *Rescue My Child*, which details the heretofore successful humanitarian exploits of CTU.

FOREIGN FORCES

Continued from page 43

acceptance of homosexuals in the military, because it is not a lifestyle that has gained acceptance in society as a whole. President Clinton needs to carefully consider which voices warrant the most serious consideration prior to issuing any order to allow gays in the military.

Should he listen to the voices of our military leaders, the troops themselves, a solid bloc of veterans' groups, and the majority of the American people? Or should he remain content with satisfying the latest ideological fashion surrounding a group which defines itself through its desire for oral and anal copulation with someone of the same gender — a group who loudly proclaims their victimization, while the behavior by which they define themselves is the engine driving a fatal national plague.

The Democratic leadership of the House recently allowed Rep. Ron Dellums,

the radical congressman from Berkeley, California, to take over as chairman of the critically important House Armed Services Committee. The Democratic leadership reassured everyone that despite Dellums' radical record, he was a fair man that would allow both sides of any argument to be heard. Dellums announced that he intended to use his new powers as a "bully pulpit," and promptly scheduled hearings on gays in the military. Dellums' insistence that the committee only take testimony from past and present homosexual military personnel raised such a storm of protest that the hearings had to be put on indefinite hold. So much for fairness and both sides of an argument.

Let's hope that Clinton gets a true picture of how homosexual military service has worked out in foreign countries, so he doesn't continue under the assumption that it has been successful. If he persists in forcing radical agendas — such as gays in the military or women in combat — onto the military at a time of drastic force reductions, the next time we get into a shooting war, our military may be little more than a debilitated chicken disguised in eagle feathers.

A 20-year USAF veteran with nearly 10 years in the Asian theater, James Brantley's SOF articles cover controversial topics such as gays in the military and women in combat.

WEAPONCRAFT

Continued from page 26

the loader is operated, and the loader is flipped over the top of the revolver as the cylinder is swung shut.

The tactical load:

Step 1: The cylinder is swung open, with the gun muzzle pointed straight down.

Step 2: The ejector rod is pushed up about a quarter of an inch by either the left-hand index finger or thumb.

Step 3: Fired brass is plucked out and thrown away right-handed.

Step 4: Emptied chambers are refilled individually or in pairs, either finger-inserted or using a Speed Strip.

Step 5: The cylinder is swung shut and the Speed Strip, if utilized, is pocketed.

No, the revolver is not as prolific as it once was, but neither are honest men, courage, or responsibility for one's actions. That doesn't make any of them less admirable — nor is there any reason to relegate them to the fate of the dinosaur.

An expert of practical weapons techniques, Louis Awerbuck is director of Yavapai Firearms Academy in Prescott Valley, Arizona.

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INTIMIDATION

Continued from page 53

to answer that."

"My attorney says not to answer that."

"Is he under arrest?"

"No."

"No? Then he's free to leave." We left.

My partner John Baird got through his interrogation quicker still. But this was not the end of it.

At the next day's press conference, the FBI announced we had been arrested for having faked press credentials — this was a flat lie. We were not arrested. We were not charged. The press credentials were legitimate. The whole thing was done to discredit John and I because we had tried to provide legal assistance to David Koresh and his followers. The FBI undertook this propaganda campaign to get the press to discredit us. It didn't work, except for Cable News Network and one asshole TV reporter from Indianapolis. Two people called to tell me CNN broadcast the story about us using footage of someone in a paddy wagon.

We never saw, much less rode in, a paddy wagon. There might have been some wagons around Waco, but we never saw any mules. Sure as shootin', though, we did spy several horse's asses along the trail. ❧

WACO INFERNO

Continued from page 41

tially embarrassing questions about evidence — or the lack of it.

"Mass Suicide Feared," blared a 3 March headline over an interview between Cox News Service reporter Bob Deans and Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, whose department oversees the ATF. Bentsen said he and Clinton talked late the night of the 28 February raid. They "agreed to proceed cautiously with the deployment of federal law enforcement officials so as not to 'spook' the cult leaders or further endanger the lives of scores of [cult] members," Bentsen told Deans. "We were sharing the concern that we would [remain] in the defensive mode ... We were concerned about the women and children," Bentsen said. "We were always concerned about a Jonestown possibility."

One question must be answered. Did the federal government ultimately see that possibility as a danger? Or as a potential solution?

A former SOF Associate Editor, James L. Pate traveled to Waco after the botched initial raid on Ranch Apocalypse and wrote "Gun Gestapo's Day Of Infamy" for our June '93 issue. He returned to the scene just prior to 19 April. ❧

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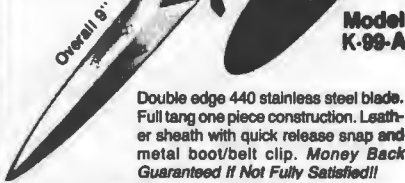
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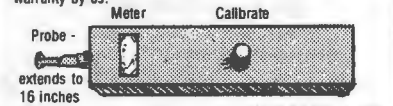
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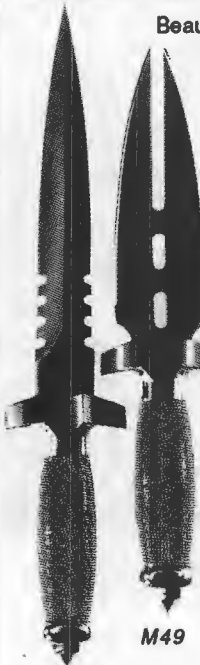


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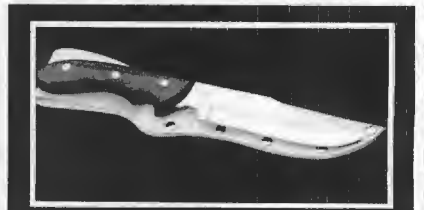
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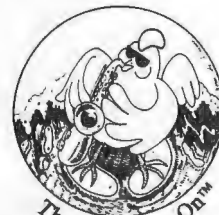
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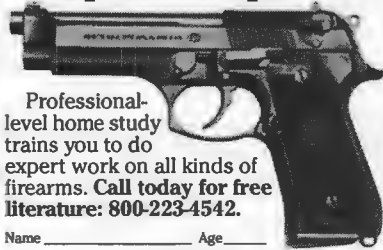
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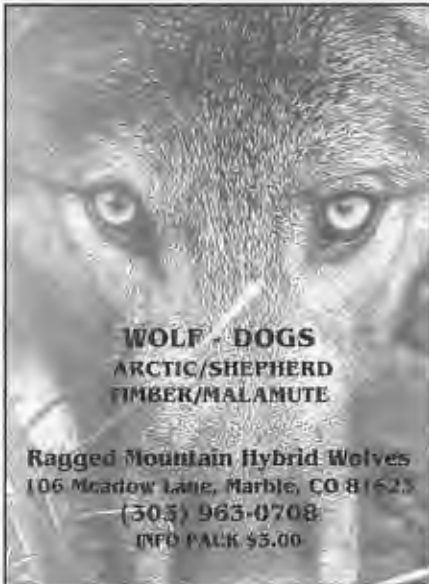
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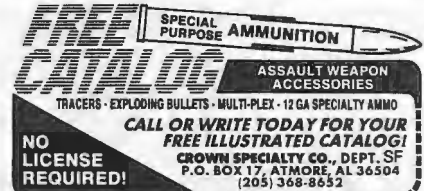
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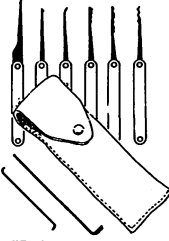
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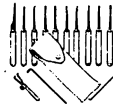
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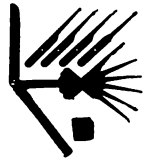
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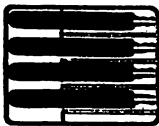
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Set of 4 picks designed to be used on the most popular double-sided disc tumbler, showcase, cam and padlocks.
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MINI PICK TUBULAR

The most effective tubular pick on the market, unlike the larger picks with long handles or screwdriver handles. The longer the tool, the more pressure needed which causes easy breakage. The advantage of the Mini Pick is it is so short, you only use your thumb and index finger. With a little practice this tool will open a tubular lock in less than a minute. A. Your Choice: (1) Center (2) Offset left (3) Offset right; B. "Segal" 8 pin tubular; C. 5-pin Tubular; D. 6-pin Tubular; E. 8-Pin Ace.
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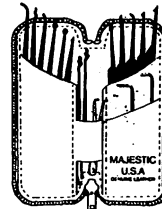
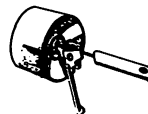
SESAMEE DECODER

This tool was designed to decode the exact combination of a sesame padlock without damaging the lock. Detailed instruction included.
\$17.95



SCHLAGE WAFER

The most fantastic tool you will ever use. This set consists of two base keys and pick. Complete instructions included.
\$27.95

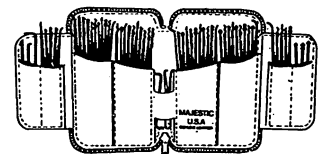
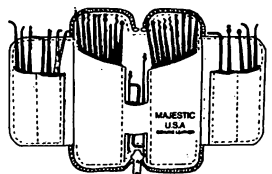


MD16

Shirt Pocket Size, Top Grain Cowhide Leather, Zippered Case, has 16 Picks, Tension Wrenchs and Broken Key Extractor.
\$59.95

MD32

Hip Pocket Size, Top Grain Cowhide Leather, Zippered Case, has 32 picks, Tension Wrenchs, Broken Key Extractor.
\$69.95



MD60

Top Grain Cowhide Leather, Zippered Case, has 60 picks, Tension Wrenchs, Broken Key Extractor and Warded Master Keys.
\$89.95

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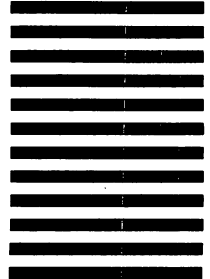
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Presenting the Ultimate Fighting and Field Knife

5/31

The Ek-SOF Ranger

Authorized by
SOLDIER OF FORTUNE



1. PARAGRIP®—18" of Jungle Camo or S.W.A.T. Team Black parachute cord custom-made expressly for this knife to 550-lb. tensile-strength military specification. Can be quickly unwrapped for utility, tie-down, etc.

2. FULL TANG — solid steel from point to butt. The tang (the steel under the grip) is a full-width, full-thickness extension of the blade, making this the most rugged, dependable knife ever designed.



S.W.A.T.
Team Black
SOF Ranger

3. FULL-PERIMETER™ SHARPENED EDGES— Both main and back edges of Ek's newest blade style are honed shaving sharp for 11" of cutting edge. The reinforced point, combined with the strength of a Bowie blade, resists bending and breaking.

Jungle Camo SOF Ranger shown smaller than actual size.
Length Overall: 13"
Blade Length: 6-7/8"
Steel Type: HCS1718
Rockwell: C57-59

Ek Commando Knife Company and Soldier of Fortune Magazine have teamed up to offer you the ultimate fighting and field knife. The Ranger, with 50 years of battle proven experience and field testing by all branches of our armed forces, is the knife to save your life. And the SOF Ranger can do just that!

Full-Perimeter Sharpened™ Combat Bowie

Forget about other knives that claim to be the best. Each Ek Limited Edition Bowie is handcrafted from battle-proven Ek HCS 1718 high carbon stainless steel for blade strength and sharpness that is unsurpassed in the knife industry.

Its blade and full-length tang are ground and polished from a 1/4" -thick slab of steel. Then it's hardened to Rockwell C57-59—and the main and back edges are honed shaving sharp, providing maximum cutting surface in the best all-purpose knife design.

Limited-Edition: Only 500 Each

The Ranger is mission-tailored in your choice of Jungle Camo or S.W.A.T. Team Black. And, to make this investment-grade knife a true collectible, only 500 of each will be made—as attested to in the accompanying Certificate of Authenticity.

Ordering is easy: Fill out the Order Form below, or call Ek Commando Knife Company directly, toll free, at 1-800-468-5575. Go ahead, let us send you our new SOF Ranger to inspect. If you're not completely satisfied, return it within 45 days for a full refund.

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Or, write, fax or send order form to:

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Richmond, VA 23220

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